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CLASSICAL TOUR

THROUGH

ITALY AND SICILY

CLASSICAL TOUR

THROUGH

ITALY AND SICILY;

TENDING TO ILLUSTRATE

SOME DISTRICTS, WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN DESCRIBED

BY

MR. EUSTACE, IN HIS CLASSICAL TOUR.

W. C. 61
83561
W. C. 18

BY

SIR RICHARD COLT HOARE, BART.

Quid enim laboro, nisi ut omni quæstione veritas explicetur?

CICERO.

IN TWO VOLUMES, SECOND EDITION.

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JOURNAL

OF

A TOUR

THROUGH THE ISLANDS OF

SICILY AND MALTA,

IN

THE YEAR 1790.

INTRODUCTION.

WHEN a new play is advertised for representation by some celebrated author, we are unwilling to anticipate the pleasure and surprise which we expect to experience from the development of the plot, by a previous reading. But it is not so with the traveller, who, before he enters upon an unknown district, is naturally anxious to become acquainted, in some degree, with its history, the nature of its soil, its antiquities, and the vicissitudes of fortune, which, in the progress of time, it has experienced; that, by a personal examination, he may be enabled to judge with a better discrimination, and by selecting the most worthy objects for consideration, not throw away his time upon trifles.

Such were my own feelings on entering SICILY; and I regretted that I had not previously made myself better acquainted with the history of its interior: but I cannot forget the sensations of gratification which I experienced from referring, on each classical spot, to the minute descriptions and historical anecdotes, recorded by the faithful pens of my two travelling companions, CLUVERIUS and FAZELLUS.

Under such able guidance it was my own fault, if information failed, for I had it at hand. Some short account of the history of Sicily seems necessary to be added to the Journal of my Tour; which I shall briefly extract from those authors, who, by their writings and descriptions, have illustrated the history of this interesting island.

TRINACRIA, OR SICILY.

FROM the concurrent testimonies of Virgil, Ovid, Valerius Flaccus, Claudian, Statius, and Silius Italicus, amongst the Roman poets, and of Seneca, and other prose writers, we are induced to believe that Sicily, now an island, was formerly united with the continent of Magnâ Græcia, now Calabria. Of this mighty separation, Virgil gives the following account:

Hæc loca, vi quondam et vastâ convulsa ruinâ
(Tantum ævi longinqua valet mutare vetustas)
Dissiluisse ferunt; quum protinus utraque tellus
Una foret; venit medio vi pontus, et undis
Hesperium Siculo latus abscidit; arvaque et urbes
Littore diductas angusto interluit æstu.

ÆN. lib. iii.

That realm of old, a ruin huge! was rent,
In length of ages, from the continent;
With force convulsive burst the isle away,
Through the dead op'ning broke the thund'ring sea.
At once the thund'ring sea Sicilia tore,
And sunder'd from the fair Hesperian shore;
And still the neighbouring coasts and towns divides,
With scanty channels and contracted tides.

PITT.

The Italian shore,
And fair Sicilia's coast, were one, before
An earthquake caus'd the flaw: the roaring tides
The passage broke, that land from land divides,
And, where the lands retired, the rushing ocean rides.

DRYDEN.

The original name of this island was TRINACRIA, and was derived from its geographical form, which was triangular, and presented three head-lands or promontories. *Απο των τριων ακρων.*

Terra tribus scopulis vastum procurrit in æquor
Trinacris à positu nomen adepta loci.

This form has been designated in some of the Syracusan medals by three legs extended different

ways; and Cluverius has adopted one, with the addition of a winged head in the centre, and ears of corn between the legs, alluding to the fertility of the island.

The three promontories, or head-lands by which this island was formerly distinguished, are, 1. LILYBÆUM, situated towards the west, and pointing towards Africa. 2. PACHYNUS, towards the south. 3. PELORUS, towards the east, and the coast of Calabria. But in later times it became better known by its inland division into three provinces, 1. The *Val di Mazara;* in which are situated the modern capital Palermo, Trapani, and Girgenti. 2. The *Val di Noto;* containing the cities of Catania, Syracuse, and Augusta. 3. The *Val di Demone;* which comprehends the cities of Messina, Milazzo, Cefalù, and Taormina.

This island is divided, nearly in its centre, from north to south, by two rivers, the *Himera Septentrionalis,* and *Himera Meridionalis.* The former unites its streams with the ocean on the northern coast, between the towns of Termine and

Cefalù; the latter joins the sea at Alicata. Various other rivers, descending from the mountains, contribute their streams; amongst which are, the Hypsa, between Marsala and Sciacca; the Halycus, at Heraclea; the Hypparis, at Camarina; the Elorus, near Noto; the Anapus, at Syracuse; the Symæthus, near Catania, &c. On the northern coast we find the Helicon, near Tindaro; the Alæsus, the Monalus, the *Himera Septentrionalis*, and the Orethus, at Palermo.

The most distinguished range of mountains were the NEPTUNII, the HERÆI, and the NEBRODES, running in a direction from east to west. The first was situated near the promontory of Pelorus. Next came the HERÆI, which were also called JUNONII, of which Diodorus Siculus has given the following very flattering description. "There are mountains in Sicily, called HERÆI, so pleasant for situation and of so sweet an air, that no place can be better pitched upon than they for pleasure and diversion in the summer time; for there are many springs of admirable sweet water, and decked with trees of all sorts. There are

whole woods of tall and stately oaks, which bear acorns of a vast bigness, twice as many, and twice as big, as in any other part of the world. There, likewise, grows abundance of roots and herbs, natural vines, and unspeakable number of apples, so that a Carthaginian army, once ready to starve for want of provisions, was there relieved and preserved; and though so many thousands were there fed, yet plenty remained in the mountains still. In this region there is a pleasant valley, graced with rows of trees, affording a most ravishing prospect to the eye; and likewise a grove dedicated to the nymphs."—Booth's Diodorus, page 173.

Further towards the west are the NEBRODES, now called *Le Madonie;* and formerly by Ptolemy, *Cratas Mons**. The Sicilian geographer describes them as the broadest and highest range of mountains in all Sicily, Mount Ætna excepted. He

* The name of Nebrodes has been derived by some of the classic writers, απο των νεβρων, *ab hinnulis*, with which the mountain was formerly well stocked. Solinus says, "Nebrodem damulæ et hinnuli pervagantur, unde Nebrodes."

describes them as being covered with snow during the greater part of the year; abounding in perennial and copious springs of water; and in a great variety of salutary and aromatic herbs, &c.

These hills terminate towards the source of the Himera river. But there are other detached mountains, Ætna, Enna, Eryx, &c. which will claim our attention more than this grand mass, and which will be more particularly described during my progress through the island.

Writers do not agree in their admeasurements of the island. Cluverius took great pains to ascertain its dimensions, and carefully perambulated it. "Ego verò insulam, pede meo, totam uno certo æquoque gressu circumiens, ambitum ejus diligentissimâ curâ observavi per loca maritima:" and the result of this inquiry was as follows:—

	M. P.
From the promontory of Pelorus to Lilybæum	255
From Lilybæum to Pachynum	190
From Pachynum to Pelorum	154
Mille Passus	599

Making, by the above statement, the circumference of the island to amount to 599 miles.

Having briefly stated the geographical situation of this island, let us now direct our thoughts towards its earliest inhabitants. We must all be sensible that the primitive history of every nation is involved in fable, and frequently in fiction; and we are told, not without some degree of authority, that the Cyclopes and Lestrigones inhabited Sicily at a very early period; and it is denominated by Homer (Odyssey, lib. 9) the land of the Cyclops Κυκλοπων γαια: but from ancient history we can gain no very satisfactory account, except that they were looked upon as a gigantic and savage race of people.

The SICANI succeeded to the former inhabitants, and gave the name of SICANIA to the island. Their sovereign was Cocalus. "Cyclopibus extinctis, Cocalus regnum insulæ occupavit."—Justin,

Post dirum Antiphatæ sceptrum, et Cyclopea regna,
Vomera verterunt primum nova regna Sicani.

SILIUS, lib. xiv.

In later times came the SICULI, and gave the name of SICILIA to the island.

> Mox Ligurum pubes, Siculo ductore, novavit
> Possessis bello mutata vocabula regnis.
> Nec res dedecori fuit, aut mutasse pudebat
> Sicanum Siculo nomen.
>
> SILIUS, lib. xiv.

Amongst the variety of nations, who, in subsequent times, invaded and inhabited Sicily, we find recorded by the classic writers the names of the Cretans, Helymi, Phocenses, Thessali, Phœnices, Carthaginians, and finally the Romans; and the Greek historian Thucydides has, in his sixth book of the Peloponnesian war, transmitted to us a most valuable record respecting the early inhabitants of Sicily, and the foundation of many of its principal cities. He begins by informing us, "that the Cyclops and Lestrigons are said to be the most ancient inhabitants of some part of this country; but from what stock they were derived, or from whence they came hither, or what is become of them since, I have nothing to relate. Poetical amusements must here suffice, or such information as every man picks up for his own use.

"The Sicanians appear to be the first people who, next to those, inhabited this country; though, according to their own accounts, they are prior, because they claim to themselves the original tenure. But according to the truest discoveries, they are found to be Iberians, who were compelled to remove from the banks of the Sicanus, in Iberia, by the Libyans. And from them, at that time, this island received the name of SICANIA, having before been called TRINACRIA. They continue to this day to inhabit the western parts of Sicily. After the taking of Troy, some of the Trojans, who had escaped the Achæans, arrive in their vessels on the Sicilian shore, and forming a settlement adjacent to the Sicanians, they all took jointly the name of Elymi; and their cities were Eryx and Egesta. They were also increased by the accession of some Phocians from Troy, who having first been driven to Libya by a storm, passed over afterwards from thence into Sicily.

"The Siculi passed over first into Sicily from Italy; for there they originally dwelled. They fled before the Opici: and, as the story is told,

not without probability, having observed how the current set within the strait, and seized a favourable gale, they crossed over upon rafts, and, perhaps, by some other methods. There are even to this very day a people in Italy called Siculi; and that region, in a similar manner, obtained its name of Italy from a certain Arcadian king, who bore the name of Italus. These, crossing into Sicily with formidable numbers, and vanquishing the Sicanians in battle, drove them into the southern and western parts; caused the name of the island to be changed from Sicania to Sicily; settled themselves in, and kept possession of, the richest tracts in the country, since their passage hither was near 300 years earlier than the landing of any Grecians in Sicily. Nay, they continue to this very day in possession of the midland and northerly parts of the island.

"The Phœnicians, also, had settlements quite round the coast of Sicily. They secured the capes on the sea, and the small circumjacent isles, for the sake of trafficking with the Sicilians. But when the Grecians, in considerable numbers, be-

gan to cross over and fix their residence here, the Phœnicians abandoned their other settlements, and, uniting together, seated themselves at Motya, and Soloeis (Solentum), and Panormus, near to the Elymi, secure of their own continuance in these quarters, from their friendship with the Elymi; and because from this part of Sicily the passage to Carthage is exceeding short. The first Grecians who came hither were the Chalcideans, of Eubœa. Thucles led the colony which settled at Naxus, and erected the altar of Apollo the Guide, which is still to be seen without the city, and on which the deputations sent from hence to the oracles offer sacrifice before they begin their voyage.

"In the year following, Archias, a Corynthian, of the race of Hercules, founded Syracuse, having previously expelled the Sicilians out of that island on which the *inner city* is seated, though now no longer washed round about by the sea. And, in process of time, the *upper city*, also, being taken in by a wall, became exceedingly populous.

"In the fifth year after the foundation of Syracuse, Thucles, and his Chalcideans, sallied forth out of Naxus, and having by force of arms drove away the Sicilians, they built Leontium, and afterwards Catana. But the Cataneans themselves declared Evarchus their founder.

"About the same point of time, Lamis, also leading a colony from Megara, arrived in Sicily, and planted them on a spot called Trotilus, upon the river Pantacias. But removing afterwards from thence to Leontium, he associated himself a short time with the Cataneans for the protection of his party; yet being ejected by them, and then having founded Thapsus, he dies. His followers, upon this, removed from Thapsus; and Hyblon, a Sicilian king, betraying another place into their hands, and becoming himself their conductor, they settled those Megareans who were called Hyblæan; and after a continued possession of two hundred and forty-five years, they were expelled out of their city and territories by Gelon, tyrant of the Syracusans. Yet, before this ejectment, about an hundred years after their settlement there, they

had sent out Pammilus, and built the city of Selinus (Selinunte). Pammilus had come thither more lately from Megara, their mother city, and assisted them in making this new settlement at Selinus.

"Antiphemus, from Rhodes, and Entimus, from Crete, each landing a separate colony, founded Gela in conjunction, in the forty-fifth year after the foundation of Syracuse. The name of this new city was taken from the river Gela; yet the spot where the city now stands, and which was first walled round, is called Lindii. But their polity was formed upon the Doric model.

"In the one hundred and eighth year, as near as possible, after this last settlement, the Geloans built Acragas (Girgenti), giving the city its name from the river Acragas. They declared Aristonous and Pystilus to be its founders, and gave it the civil institutions of Gela.

"Zanclè (Messina) was originally founded by a band of pirates, who arrived there from Cymè

(Cumæ), a Chalcidic city in Opicia; though afterwards a numerous reinforcement from Chalcis and the rest of Eubœa joined them, and possessed that district in community. The founders were Perieres and Cratæmenes; one of them from Cymè, the other from Chalcis. But the name of Zanclè was first of all given it by the Sicilians because in shape it bears resemblance to a scythe; and the Sicilians call a scythe Ζαγκλη, or Ζάγκλον. But, in process of time, these people were driven from thence by the Samians, and other Ionians; who, flying from the Medes, had landed in Sicily. And after a short interval, Anaxilas, tyrant of the Rhegians, ejected the Samians, repeopled the city with a number of mixed inhabitants, and changed its name to Messene, in honour of the country from whence he was originally descended. Himera was also founded from Zanclè, by Euclides, and Simus, and Sacon. Into this colony came also a very numerous body of Chalcideans. Some exiles farther from Syracuse, who had been worsted in a sedition, and were distinguished by the title of Miletidæ, took up their residence amongst them. Hence their dialect became a mixture of the Chal-

cidic and the Doric; but the Chalcidic model obtained in their civil institutions.

"Acræ and Casmenæ were founded by the Syracusans; Acræ seventy years after Syracuse, and Casmenæ near twenty after Acræ. Camarina, also, was first founded by the Syracusans, very nearly one hundred and thirty-five years after the building of Syracuse; its founders were Dascon and Menecolus. But the Camerineans being afterwards driven out by the arms of the Syracusans because of a revolt, in process of time, Hippocrates, tyrant of Gela, received the lands of the Camerineans as a ransom for some Syracusan prisoners of war, and taking upon himself to be their founder, replanted Camerina. Yet once more again it was demolished by Gelon; and replanted a third time by the same Gelon. So many nations of Greeks and Barbarians inhabited Sicily."—Smith's Thucydides, ii. p. 96.

The above authentic document will throw great light upon the cities and places, which I shall have occasion to mention during the progress of

my tour through the island; and coming from the pen of a celebrated Greek historian, is rendered doubly valuable. It is not to be wondered that a country, parcelled out between so many rulers, should have been, for a long series of years, continually exposed to invasion, tumult, and dissension. A quarrel between the neighbouring inhabitants of Egeste and Selinunte served as a specious pretext for the interference of the Athenians, who had cast a longing eye upon this rich and populous island, and secretly had determined on its total subjection. But the fates decreed otherwise; for after a long and severe struggle, the Syracusans obtained a decided victory over the Athenians, which was rendered more glorious by the capture of their celebrated generals Nicias and Demosthenes*.

It is not my intention to enter into a minute detail of every warlike action, or every political event which transpired, in the course of years, within this island; but to mark only those events

* This action is described in the Journal.

which contributed either to the rise or fall of the principal cities, whose site or ruins become in modern days the traveller's chief object of attraction.

A. C. 410. The Egestans, although they had ceded to their rivals, the Selinuntines, that portion of territory which, previous to the late war, had been the chief object of contention, had made themselves odious to the other inhabitants of the island for having called in the assistance of the Athenians, who had formerly subdued them. The animosity of the Selinuntines still prevailing, some foreign assistance became absolutely necessary towards the support of the Egestans. A deputation was, therefore, sent to Carthage; which, after some debate, obtained a favourable hearing, and Annibal* was appointed the leader of an expedition to Sicily in favour of the Egestans. In the in-

* We must not confound this personage with the celebrated Annibal, who was victor at the battles, against the Romans, at Thrasymene and Cannæ. This Annibal was the son of Gisco, who was son of Amilcar the Carthaginian.

terim the Syracusans endeavoured to conciliate the contending parties, but in vain; war became inevitable, and they favoured the cause of the Selinuntines.

The Carthaginians made their first attack upon Selinunte; and, after a most vigorous resistance from its inhabitants, carried their point, and, like barbarians, signalized their victory by the most barbarous acts of cruelty; the whole town was destroyed, and those magnificent temples, which even in ruins astonish the beholder, were not spared. To the repeated prayers of the inhabitants for their salvation, the Carthaginian leader was inexorable. Thus, after a short existence of two hundred and forty-two years, was this noble city reduced to a heap of ruins. The vengeance of Annibal was next directed against the city of Himera, for he bore in his revengeful breast the death of his grandfather Amilcar at this place; and offered as a sacrifice to his *manes* three thousand of his unfortunate prisoners. The same system of destruction prevailed here as at Selinunte; and even the temples of the gods met with no commiseration.

After the destruction of this city, the Carthaginians built another in the neighbourhood, which they called THERMÆ (now Termine), and still meditated fresh conquests in the island. Annibal, after visiting Carthage, and receiving the thanks of his country for the destructive war he had so successfully carried on against two powerful cities, returned with a fleet and army into Sicily, assisted by a relation named Imilcon. The strong city of Agrigentum was fixed upon as the object of their first attack: its fate was for a short time suspended by the death of Annibal, who had reached a very advanced age; but at length famine obliged the inhabitants to evacuate the city, after a siege of eight months, and to deliver it up into the hands of the enemy. The city of Gela shortly afterwards underwent the same humiliating fate: yet Imilcon, though victorious, concluded a peace with Dionysius, then ruler of Syracuse, A. C. 406, and returned with his forces into Africa.

But no sooner was this island liberated from its foreign enemy, than it was doomed to feel the oppressive rod of the tyrant Dionysius, and of his

son, who succeeded him for a short time in the government of Sicily. On the barbarous murder of his son Dion, a deputation being sent to Corynth, Timoleon was selected for the assistance of the Syracusans. This distinguished chief, after a glorious and triumphant government of eight years, succeeded in rescuing the country from tyranny; and his memory was gratefully recorded by the Syracusans in a magnificent funeral, and the celebration of annual games to his honour.—Diodorus, lib. xvi. cap. 15.

But notwithstanding the wholesome laws and wise establishments of Timoleon, this unhappy island was still, and after no very long interval, destined to sink under the heavy yoke of tyranny, from the oppression of Agathocles; whose reign was disturbed by continual wars with his inveterate enemies, the Carthaginians. Various were the vicissitudes experienced by the nations concerned in this war. Amilcar, the Carthaginian general, was taken prisoner, and put to death. The ancient city of Egeste was plundered by Agathocles, and its inhabitants most cruelly tortured.

Peace, however, was at length obtained between the tyrant and the Carthaginians: but he did not live long to enjoy tranquillity, his life being shortened by means of poison.—See Booth's Diodorus, page 710.

Icetas continued in the government of Syracuse, and Phintias in that of Agrigentum; but fresh disturbances arose, and foreign aid was once more supplicated. Pyrrhus, a Grecian, undertook the Sicilian cause: his first expedition was announced against Eryx, a strong hold of the Carthaginians, and was attended with success; he afterwards rescued the city of Palermo from the same enemies, and confined them to the sole possession of Lilybæum. Hitherto his military actions had been so ably conducted as to gain him the adoration of the Sicilians; but a series of unjust and unpopular acts soon withdrew from him that national applause, and converted it into anger and revenge. He was pursued in his retreat by the Mamertins; and, though wounded in the head, had the courage to listen to a challenge offered by a distinguished man of the enemy,

quitted his ranks, and advancing bravely against his rival, clove his head asunder; which act of bravery so astonished the Mamertins, that they immediately abandoned the pursuit.

Still discord prevailed amongst the principal cities of the island; and whilst the Syracusans, under their leader Hieron, were engaged with the Carthaginians and Mamertins, a new enemy appeared upon the stage, and took a very decided part against the Sicilians.

A. C. 265. The Romans, under Appius Claudius, landed at Messina, and ultimately succeeded in their warfare against Hieron of Syracuse, who had united himself with the Carthaginians. This was the first expedition which the Romans had made out of the Italian confines, and their conquest of Messina was succeeded by that of Agrigentum; but finding by past experience, that there was no chance of expelling the Carthaginians from the maritime towns of Sicily, without a larger fleet than they could at this time muster, they resolved to build one of sufficient force to cope with

their rivals; and so great were the ardour and exertions of this people, that in less than two months one hundred galleys of five rows of oars, and twenty of three rows, were equipped. This is an interesting epoch of the Roman nation: hitherto their conquests had been confined to the land, and had been attended by unexampled success; in naval tactics they were unexperienced novices.

A. C. 261. The consuls Cneius Cornelius Scipio and Caius Duilius were appointed to the command of the army and newly-established navy; but the latter was deprived of the assistance of his colleague by a snare, which was laid for him by the enemy, and thereby taken prisoner. But Duilius finding that his vessels, built in haste, could not cope with those of the Carthaginians, had recourse to a stratagem, and invented a machine, which was named *corvus**, by means of which he

* A description of this instrument is given by Polybius, lib. i. cap. 4, and a supposed representation of it by his annotator, De Folard; it resembles one of the engines made use of in modern days to raise great weights.

was enabled to grapple and board the enemy's ships. Victory favoured the Romans; the siege of Segeste was raised; and Duilius returned to Rome, there to receive the reward due to his bravery, by the first naval victory which graced the annals of the Roman history*.

A. C. 260. War was still carried on with great animosity between the Romans and Carthaginians; Enna was taken by the former, together with many towns of inferior note. Agrigentum was retaken by the Carthaginians, and Cephaledium

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* Duilius on his return to Rome was honoured with a naval triumph, and a column was erected to his memory. These memorials afterwards bore the titles of *Columnæ Rostratæ*, and they were decorated with representations of the prows of vessels. The supposed pedestal of the one erected to Duilius was found at Rome, in the Forum, near to the Arch of Septimius Severus; but doubts seem to be entertained respecting the authenticity of its inscription. There is a curious dissertation respecting this column by Ciacconius, in the Collections of Grævius, tom. iv. p. 1813, in which he gives this antiquated inscription, supplies the *lacunæ*, and renders it more intelligible by a modern interpretation of the words.

(Cefalu), together with Palermo, by the Romans; in which latter city, thirty thousand inhabitants, who could not pay their ransom, were considered as slaves, and sold.

A. C. 251. In this year two new chieftains appeared on the scene of action: Cæcilius Metellus as leader of the Roman, and Asdrubal of the Carthaginian forces. The former was stationed with his army at Palermo, and was shortly attacked by his opponent Asdrubal, who had brought with him from Africa a very considerable number of elephants; who being driven forward in this assault too near the city walls, were wounded by the darts of the besieged, and threw the whole army of Carthaginians into confusion; of which circumstance the Roman general availed himself, and sallying forth from the city, completed the overthrow of the Carthaginians, and either took or destroyed the entire host of elephants, which now no longer caused apprehension.

In the following year the Romans undertook

the siege of Lilybæum*; which at that time was considered as one of the strongest cities in the island, defended by a garrison of 10,000 men, and commanded by Imilcon. The treachery of some foreign soldiers very nearly put the Romans in possession of the town; but the conspiracy was discovered and counteracted by one Alexo, an Achæan, who had before made discovery of treacherous attempts against the city of Agrigentum. In the mean time a very considerable and unexpected reinforcement of troops was sent from Carthage to the assistance of the besieged, which entered the harbour without any opposition from the Romans. Emboldened by this additional strength, Imilcon, in his turn, became the aggressor, and sallied forth from the city with an intent to set fire to the Roman works; the battle was most warmly contested on each side, and already had the Carthaginians, with flaming torches in their

* A very particular description of Lilybæum is given by Polybius in book i, chap. 3.

hands, invaded the machines of the enemy with so much fury, that the Romans were reduced to the greatest extremity. But at this critical moment the Carthaginian leader, perceiving the dreadful slaughter committed on his troops, and despairing of success in the chief object of his attack, ordered a signal of retreat to be sounded, and retired with his army into the city.

Some interesting events took place during this memorable siege; one of which shews the daring spirit of the enemy with which Rome had to contend. At Carthage the people were naturally impatient to hear news from Lilybæum; but as the besieged were closely confined within their walls, and the port as closely blockaded by the Roman fleet, all means of communication with their countrymen seemed interdicted. In this dilemma, Annibal, surnamed the Rhodian, engaged to sail into the harbour of Lilybæum, and to return to Carthage with the much wished-for information. His generous offer was thankfully accepted: he set sail the next day, and, in defiance of the astonished Romans, completed his mission, although ten of the enemy's ships were stationed with a view to inter-

cept him. This successful attempt encouraged others to follow the example of the Rhodian, and thus a constant communication was kept up with the besieged; but in one of these attempts, a Carthaginian galley was unfortunately stranded, and taken. It was immediately equipped and armed by the Romans, and employed in watching the motions of the Rhodian; who was in a short time afterwards discovered sailing out of the harbour, which he had entered during the night. Recognizing at length the vessel, he betook himself to flight, but finding that the enemy gained ground upon him, he determined to try his strength in battle; but was obliged to yield to the superior strength of the Romans.

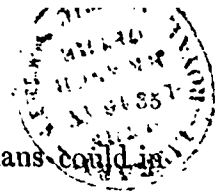
Still the spirit of the besieged remained unbroken, and they meditated fresh attacks upon the Roman works; a high wind, which had blown down some of the enemy's towers, emboldened them once more to attempt their destruction by fire; and in this sally fortune favoured their exertions, and the Romans were at length obliged to abandon all idea of reducing Lilybæum by a regular siege.

A. C. 249. At this period the Carthaginian fleet, under Adherbal, was stationed at Drepanum (Trapani), and the Romans, having received a strong reinforcement, seized this opportunity of making a sudden and unexpected attack upon the enemy; but on perceiving the Roman fleet on their coast, Adherbal made every possible exertion to oppose it, and by the superior knowledge of his sailors in the management of their vessels, gained a most decided victory. Shortly afterwards the Carthaginians experienced a very signal mark of good fortune, by the total destruction, by storm, of the Roman fleet.

The scene of warfare now lay in the country adjoining the lofty Mount Eryx, Drepanum, and Panormus; and the possession of the fortified mountain was most strongly contested. And here I must insert a remark of the historian Polybius respecting the actual state of the contending armies. He compares them with those generous and valiant birds, which, when they have fought so long together that they are quite disabled from making any farther use of their wings in the en-

gagement, yet retaining still their courage, and exchanging mutual wounds, at last unite by a kind of instinct in a closer combat, and maintain the fight together with their beaks, till the one or the other of them falls beneath his adversary's stroke. In the same manner, the Carthaginians and the Romans, exhausted by continual expense, and weakened by the miseries and the losses which the war had brought upon them, were now reduced on both sides to the last extremity.

Yet the Romans, irritated by the stigma which had been cast upon them by their late naval defeat, determined once more to contest with the Carthaginians the empire of the ocean; and on this occasion the zeal of individuals accomplished what the treasury could not, by fitting out a fleet of two hundred quinqueremes, which were built upon the model of the vessel taken from the Rhodian. The Consul Lutatius appeared at the head of this new armament, and, on his unexpected appearance on the Sicilian coast, the ports of Drepanum and Lilybæum were taken into possession; for the Carthaginians had returned with their fleet to



Africa, little suspecting that the Romans could in so short a time have recovered the very severe losses they had sustained by war and the elements. On hearing this unexpected intelligence of the arrival of the Roman fleet, Hanno was despatched from Carthage with a view of arriving at Eryx unperceived by the Romans, and there uniting his forces with those of Amilcar. But Lutatius, to prevent this junction, sailed to the island of Ægusa, which lay opposite to Lilybæum; and although the sea and winds were turbulent, he determined to attack the hostile fleet, and intercept their course. The engagement was obstinate, but terminated in a complete defeat of the Carthaginians; who, on this occasion, fought to great disadvantage, their vessels being heavily laden, and, from their sudden equipment, badly manned. The Romans, also, had improved both in naval architecture as well as tactics. *Fas est et ab hoste doceri.*

The Romans had now established themselves masters of the sea, and the Carthaginians felt the

impossibility of keeping up a communication with their troops in the interior of the island. Yielding, therefore, to the necessity of the times, they resolved on sending embassadors to Rome to treat for peace; for, as Polybius justly observes, "the part of a consummate general is not only to know when to conquer, but when also to renounce all hopes of victory."

The Romans, equally tired and harassed by this protracted war, embraced the offer, and a treaty was concluded on the following terms: That the Carthaginians should relinquish every part of Sicily; that they shall not make war upon Hiero, nor give any disturbance to the Syracusans or their allies; that they shall restore without ransom all the Roman prisoners, and pay a tribute of two thousand and two hundred Euboic talents of silver within the course of twenty years. Yet these terms, when conveyed to Rome, appeared too lenient, and further concessions were required, and acceded to by the Carthaginians. Hieron, lord of Syracuse, continued faithful to the Romans

till the period of his death, which took place A. C. 245, at a very advanced age, and after a reign of fifty-four years. He was succeeded by his grandson Hieronymus, a prince of a most despicable character, whose life was very shortly terminated by assassination.

A. C. 214. We now come to a very interesting æra of the Sicilian history, when some new and distinguished characters will be brought upon the stage of action. After the death of Hieronymus, Epicides and Hippocrates, both Carthaginians, took the lead at Syracuse, and endeavoured to alienate the Syracusans, from their steady allies the Romans. Marcellus, the consul for that year, was ordered to conduct an army into Sicily; and before he commenced hostilities, endeavoured to negociate. He assured the Syracusans, that he had no intention of waging war against them, but that he came to deliver them from oppression, and restore them to their former liberty; but his declaration was not attended to by the Syracusan generals. At this time lived Archimedes, a celebrated geometrician, at Syracuse,

who had invented a variety of warlike machines*, to protect his city from the hostile assaults of the enemy; the Roman consul had, also, invented others, with the hopes of counteracting their powerful effects; but the skill of Archimedes preponderated, and Marcellus was obliged to abandon all thoughts of taking the city by assault; he therefore converted the siege into a blockade, and, by cutting off all communication by sea and land, hoped to reduce the town by famine.

In the mean time the Carthaginians availed themselves of this opportunity to renew their invasion of the island; they disembarked an army of twenty thousand men, with cavalry and elephants, at Heraclea; entered Agrigentum, and took possession of many other towns. Marcellus, despairing of ever reducing Syracuse by famine, was induced to have recourse to stratagem. The first conspiracy was discovered, and those who were concerned in it put to death: but the second

* A very particular account of these mechanical instruments is given by Polybius, book viii. extract 3.

met with the desired success, and put the Romans in possession of Syracuse, but not without considerable resistance and slaughter. The joy of Marcellus on this event was in a great degree counterbalanced by the unfortunate death of Archimedes, who, intent upon his studies, had not heard the tumult occasioned by the Romans entering the city, and was suddenly surprised by the appearance of a soldier, who ordered him to accompany him directly to Marcellus. Archimedes requested him to wait only till his problem was solved; but the soldier could not brook delay, and pierced him with his sword.

Thus ended the celebrated siege of Syracuse, which added another important city to the Roman empire; yet the hero who had accomplished this noble act was honoured by his countrymen by only a simple ovation*: but the Syracusans

* It is singular that the fruits of so very important a victory should have terminated in an ovation, and not in a triumph; but, probably, the laws of the republic did not allow of higher honours. Aulus Gellius, book v. chap. 6,

evinced a truer sense of gratitude towards him, by erecting a statue of bronze to his memory in Syracuse, and by establishing an annual festival called *Marcellea*, on the anniversary of the taking of Syracuse.

Still Agrigentum, under the government of Hannon, remained in the hands of the Carthaginians, and refused to surrender. But the Romans having by secret means been introduced into the town, the garrison and the principal inhabitants

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informs us, that an ovation, rather than a triumph, is granted when wars have not been formally declared, nor carried on with a regular public enemy, or the enemy is either mean or inglorious, as in the case of slaves and pirates; or a surrender being unexpectedly made, the victory is without exertion or bloodshed.

The difference between the triumph and the ovation was this. The victor in the latter case, proceeded from the Alban Mount, attended by his army, and entered the city *on foot*, not in a triumphal car; he also wore a crown of myrtle, not of laurel; nor was he allowed to wear the *toga picta* and *palmata*, nor the *trabea*.—*Dionysius*, lib. v. p. 314.

were put to death, and the people condemned to slavery, and sold by auction.

A. C. 205. At this period we find the whole island of Sicily under the influence of the Romans; whose policy required that the spirit of warfare, which had so long animated the nation, should by degrees be repressed, and that the minds of the people should be diverted to the cultivation and improvement of a soil, which nature had gifted with such an abundant share of fertility. The Sicilians also experienced a striking mark of generosity from the Romans, who ordered that all the celebrated statues, &c. which had been taken away by the Carthaginians, should be restored to their original possessors.

A. C. 146. The tranquillity and prosperity which the Sicilian nation began to enjoy, under the protection of the most powerful people upon earth, was disturbed by a very unexpected commotion among the slaves; who had revolted on account of the cruel treatment they had experienced from their masters. Their first outrages were

committed at Enna, where a Sicilian, named Damophilus, was accused of great partiality, as well as severity, towards his slaves. Amongst them was one Ennus, who took the lead; his first act was the pillage of Enna the massacre of its inhabitants, and the assassination of Damophilus. By this act he was thought worthy of royalty, and was proclaimed sovereign by his comrades; but thinking the title of Ennus not sufficiently dignified, he assumed that of Antiochus. His temerity increased with his numbers, which in a short time amounted to ten thousand. In three successive battles he gained a superiority over the Romans, and his forces were augmented by the addition of five thousand slaves, who had revolted under Cleon; and at length their number is said to have amounted to near an hundred thousand. A fourth prætor was defeated, and the city of Tauromenium (Taormina) taken. The situation of the Romans now became so critical, that the senate thought fit to send a consul into Sicily, instead of a prætor; and the command was given to L. Calpurnius Piso (A. C. 135). And here we must do justice to the slaves in Messina, who

would not imitate the conduct of their companions, but adhered with fidelity to their masters; on which account the rebels laid siege to Messina, but were repulsed with a heavy loss by Pison. The command now devolved on his successor, the consul Rupilius, who began his career by laying siege to Tauromenium, which having been reduced by famine, he proceeded to Enna, whither the chiefs of the slaves had retreated. Many of the rebels seeing no possibility of escape, put themselves to death; Ennus was found concealed in a cavern, and shortly afterwards died in prison. Cleon was taken prisoner in a sally, and died of his wounds. The consul Rupilius having thus happily restored tranquillity to the island, returned to Rome, where he was rewarded by the honours of an ovation.

A. C. 105. Thus ended the first Servile war; but Sicily, after the enjoyment of twenty-seven years of peace, was doomed once more to be disturbed by the same factious multitude, who at one time amounted to the number of forty thousand, under the command of Athenion; who,

after a protracted war of four years, lost his life in a general action, which terminated in favour of the Romans.

We now approach an æra in the annals of Sicily, in which names more familiar to us are brought before the public. The celebrated Marius, flying from the persecution of Sylla, was nearly seized on this coast; and Perpenna, one of his adherents, had taken possession of the island, but fled on the approach of Pompey.

A. C. 75. Cicero was appointed quæstor of Lilybæum; and he had the good fortune to discover the tomb of Archimedes, which had been neglected, and even forgotten, by his fellow citizens at Syracuse.

A. C. 71. A third attempt was made to raise a civil war, by Spartacus, who endeavoured to excite the slaves to insurrection, but without effect.

At this period, Sicily was governed by the

prætor Verres, a man distinguished for his rapacity in plundering both the public and private buildings of their riches; and rendered still more conspicuous by the flow of oratory which was fulminated against him by Cicero *. Yet still he had his partisans in the two great cities of Syracuse and Messina, who refused to take part against him, and even expressed themselves satisfied with his administration. But other cities avowed their hatred against him by overthrowing the statues which had been erected to him and his son. The Sicilians demanded justice from the Court of Rome; and, after much contest, Cicero was named as advocate for their cause; to whom was opposed the celebrated orator Hortensius. But the oratory of Cicero prevailed; a verdict was obtained in his favour, but by no means adequate to the peculation of Verres.

About this time commenced the civil wars, in which Julius Cæsar, Pompey, Mark Antony, and

* Vide "Actiones in Verrem," by Cicero, vol. v. Edition of Olivetus.

Octavius, were engaged; and which, after the battle of Actium, A. C. 36, terminated in favour of the latter, who took the name of Augustus. On the decline of the Roman empire, this island became a prey to the Gothic and Saracenic invaders; till the year 1038, the Normans were introduced into the island, and the investiture of Sicily was given by Pope Nicholas II. to Robert Guiscard.

But although each of these nations have left behind them vestiges of their dominion in the remains of churches, palaces, and baths, it is not my intention to enter into a detail of their history. My tour through the island was undertaken with a view to admire its natural scenery, and, by exploring its remains of antiquity, to form, in some degree, an impartial judgment of its ancient power and splendour. I shall therefore close my account with the commencement of the Christian æra. This fine island passed under the dominion of many masters, and till a very late period maintained its feudal system; but by a recent edict, issued from the Court of Naples, the baro-

nial privileges and monopolies, so oppressive and injurious to the general welfare of the island, have been abolished; and Sicily, with its inhabitants, have been allowed their due share of the honours and emoluments which emanate from the primary seat of government at Naples.

LITERARY MEMORANDA.

THOSE travellers whose inclination leads them to visit countries which have been signalized in ancient history by the Greek and Roman authors, and who wish that the eye alone should not engross the whole of the novelty, but that the mind should have its share of gratification, will naturally make themselves acquainted with those ancient authors, who lived nearest the æra in which each nation flourished; and from whose writings they will naturally expect to derive the most authentic information.

We are fortunate in finding the most ample intelligence, both descriptive and historical, respecting the island of Sicily, dispersed in the volumes

of Thucydides, Polybius, Diodorus Siculus, and many other authors of inferior note; but I am well aware that these historical libraries cannot find room amongst the baggage of the tourist. This inconvenience is very fortunately obviated by finding all the most interesting and necessary quotations from the classic authors, collected in the "Sicilia Antiqua." by Cluverius, in one folio volume, and illustrated with maps. Those who seek further information will find it in "Fazellus de rebus Siculis;" of which there are two editions, the oldest in one folio volume, the latest (1753) in three folio volumes. The "Lexicon Topographicum Siciliæ," in quarto, Palermo, 1760, will prove an useful guide. "Burigny Histoire Generale de la Sicile," 2 tom. quarto, 1745, may be added. The list of modern tourists is numerous; at the head of them I shall place the "Viaggio per tutte le antichita della Sicilia," quarto, 1781, by a native antiquary, the Prince of Biscari; "Voyages en Sicile," octavo, 1789, by De Non; and by Riedesel, octavo, 1802. Previous to these, two of our own countrymen published their journies in Sicily. The first was

Brydone, in 1773; and the second was Swinburne, in 1790. With respect to maps I found a great deficiency, and the best I could procure of the island was a very indifferent one. I have been informed, however, that a fine survey has lately been made and published by the celebrated geographer Zannoni.

A CLASSICAL TOUR

THROUGH

ITALY.

SICILY AND MALTA.

From Palermo to Segeste, Trapani, Marsala, Mazzara, Castel Vetrano, Sciacca, and Girgenti.

MONDAY, March 1, 1790. I left Palermo, attended by the following suite: a litter, with two mules; another mule, carrying a driver and half a load; and a third with a whole load, namely, my bed, kitchen furniture, and many other articles. Also, two other mules, for servants; and two campieri, as guards. For the litter and six mules I agreed to give two ounces a day, and to the campieri twelve carlini.

To Sferra Cavalîo, distant eight miles, the

road is good, and the country enlivened by numerous villas, belonging to the nobility of Palermo; of which, those of the Airoldi and Spaccafumo families are the most conspicuous. Many of these buildings are magnificent; but the want of handsome trees, the frequency of wall enclosures, and the stony nature of the soil, are striking defects, and give them a desolate appearance. At Sferra Cavallo, or rather before, all population seems to cease; the road becomes impracticable for carriages; and a succession of stone walls, interspersed with the Indian fig, the olive, and a few other species of fruit trees, backed by lofty and rocky mountains, compose the only scenery which the landscape affords. From this place to Palermo the road leads through a plain, bounded on either side by high mountains, among which, on the right, is Monte Pellegrino. I now reached the shore, and followed a bad track along the margin of the sea, amidst barren rocks, and over a soil so stony as to bear only a few scattered blades of grass, with wild plants, such as fennel and lilies, and occasionally a dwarf palm tree. In the midst of this solitary plain, exposed to the beating winds, a hermit has built a little cell, close to the side of the road. The prospect is as wild and dreary as the most zealous anchorite could desire. No object meets the eye but a little island, scarcely separated from the main land, and

two watch towers; and a few fishermen are the only signs of population. Soon afterwards the soil begins to improve, and habitations re-appear. Passing to the right of two petty villages, Capace and Torretta, the latter of which is situated amidst the mountains, the town of Carini appears on the declivity of a lofty eminence, which towers to a great height above it. The surrounding territory is well cultivated, and seems fertile. It is environed on three sides by elevated mountains, and on the fourth open to the sea. In the vicinity was the site of the ancient Hyccara; but much nearer the shore, for it is described by the early writers as a maritime town. It was reduced by the Athenians under Nicias, and delivered to the Segestians. At this time the celebrated courtezan, Lais*, was captured, and conveyed to Corinth,

* Lais, the celebrated courtezan, daughter of Timandra, the mistress of Alcibiades, was born at Hiccara, in Sicily. Many curious anecdotes have been recorded of her charms, and her mercenary habits. Demosthenes was attracted to Corinth by the fame of this voluptuous female; but when he heard, that access to her bed was valued at three hundred pounds of our money, the orator departed, observing that he would not buy repentance at so dear a rate. From the expenses attending her pleasures originated the proverb, "Non cuivis homini contingit adire Corinthum." Diogenes the Cynic admired her charms, and was admitted to her favours. The success she met with at Corinth induced her

where she was sold. The events of her life are too well known to need recapitulation; and, indeed, this city owes to her its principal celebrity, for it bore no distinguished part either in war or policy.

I passed about two miles to the right of the modern town of Carini, and pursued my track, for there is no road, through a grove of olive trees, toward Cinisi. The steep acclivities on the left bear abundance of manna and carob trees: the former are excellent in their kind; and the fruit of the latter, both raw and baked, is very palatable. Cinisi belongs to the Benedictine convent of St. Martino, near Palermo; where I was kindly and hospitably received. The convent itself was originally an ancient castle. The village near it has been newly built, and exhibits a neat appearance; the streets being all straight and regular. Under the patronage of this establishment are about five thousand souls. Behind is a mountain called Scornabeccho, the name of the male pistacio nut tree.

Tuesday, March 2. At daybreak I proceeded on my journey. The rain was heavy, and the

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to pass into Thessaly, where the women, jealous of her attractions, assassinated her in the temple of Venus.—*Lempriere's Dictionary.*

wind violent; but I hoped to reach Alcamo. In less than two hours I came to the river of St. Cataldo, which I found so much swelled with rain during the night, that an attempt to cross would have been attended with great danger. I had, therefore, the mortification of being obliged to return to my lodging at the convent. As the afternoon was fine, I availed myself of the delay to view the environs of Cinisi. During my walk, with one of the fathers, I gained some information respecting the manna plantations, which are extremely profitable. These plantations are numerous and extensive. Each tree, of a moderate growth, produces the value of an ounce in gold; and the ground on which they best thrive is totally unfit for any other species of culture, being a mere bed of stones. By the side of each tree is its child, a young sucker, to succeed the parent stem; which, at a certain period, is cut down. I observed, in the course of my perambulation, one of the ancient houses, built in the castellated form, with only one small window, and over the door way a projecting wall, for the purpose of annoying an assailant with stones, &c. Such were once the common habitations of the country; but, from a change of manners and circumstances, this is, fortunately, the only specimen now extant.

Wednesday, March 3. I had resolved to

depart, at break of day, but was again detained by the heavy rain. Before noon, however, I took leave of the hospitable fathers, and once more proceeded. The same plantations of manna trees, olives, and carobs, with large aloes and India figs, continue as far as the river of St. Cataldo. On the left was a range of high and rocky mountains, while on the right I caught a fine view of Castel-a-Mare, and the shore extending to Capo St. Vito. On reaching the river I did not experience the same obstruction as yesterday, but crossed it without difficulty, as well as three others, which occurred during my journey. These, like other mountain torrents, are always dangerous, and sometimes impassable after heavy rains. The nature of the soil here changes, and the rocky substance gives place to sand. The plantations also cease, and are succeeded by corn and vines; but there is still a total want of trees, and the habitations are very thinly scattered. The view of the sea and opposite coast, however, adds some variety to this otherwise dreary and uninteresting scene. For a considerable way the road skirted the beach. At length I quitted it, and ascended to Alcamo, by a miserable track, through the open corn fields, &c. The town of Alcamo, of which the population amounts to about twelve thousand souls, presents an appearance of neatness, and contains some good buildings. It is situated under the mountain

St. Bonifato; which is justly characterized by Fazellus as "Mons excelsus, et undique præruptus, ac in acutum surgens." On the summit are the remains of a castle, built by the Saracens soon after their landing in Sicily. From their leader, Aadelcum, the town itself is said to have derived the name of Alcamo.

I was hospitably received at the house of Don Antonio Mangione, to whom I carried a letter of recommendation. The fathers of the Franciscan convent, who had been apprised of my arrival, also kindly prepared rooms for me.

Thursday, March 4. At break of day I proceeded, amidst corn fields, over acclivities and descents, without any beaten track, and through a deep stiff clay, rendered still more heavy by the late rains. But I am perfectly reconciled to my new mode of conveyance, and convinced of the safety and sagacity of my mules. About three miles from Alcamo I crossed another river, of the same breadth, and soon afterwards caught the first view of the celebrated Temple of Segeste. Its picturesque appearance was heightened by the sunbeams, which shone brightly on the building, while all the foreground was thrown into a deep shade. I afterwards lost sight of it for a time; but on ascending a small eminence it again burst

on my view in all its splendour. The situation is truly picturesque; but although it appears more majestic to the eye from being placed on a barren knoll, without any other object to divert the attention, or detract from its grandeur, yet, on taking drawings, in several points of view, I lamented the want of trees to render the landscape more perfect and agreeable. It stands on a gentle eminence, under lofty mountains, and on the brink of a precipice, at the foot of which rushes a narrow torrent. This structure is in a perfect state of preservation; for the damages which it had sustained were repaired, by order of the King of Naples, under the direction of that true lover and protector of antiquities, the Prince of Torremuzza. It this operation he discovered two additional steps, which were before concealed under-ground. The inscription commemorates the reparation.

FERDINANDI REGIS AVGVSTISSIMI PROVIDENTIA
RESTITVIT
ANNO MDCCLXXXI.

The whole number of columns amounts to thirty-six; each front presenting six, and each side, including the corner columns, fourteen. I took the following measurements. Length of the base, on which the columns rest, one hundred and ninety English feet; of the front, seventy-eight;

the circumference of each column, twenty feet eight inches. The columns are all formed of round stones, like mill stones, placed one on the other, but not always of equal thickness; for in some I counted only ten, in others eleven, twelve, and thirteen. The stones composing the architrave are of vast size, and I noticed one which extended over two columns. These columns rest on a flat base, and diminish gradually towards the summit. Three have been restored. The capitals are very simple, consisting of a stone rounded, and projecting beyond the stem of the columns. As the junction in this part is not perfect, some have supposed that the building was left unfinished, and that the columns were intended to be fluted. Some other parts exhibit the same want of finish, particularly the steps, and the square bases, on which the columns rest. There is no trace of either roof or cell. The architecture is of the Doric order, adorned with tryglíphs. The stone is yellow, and much corroded by time. On approaching it, the sculpture appears rather rough and coarse; but, in a proper point of view, the beauty of the proportions is wonderfully striking. The period of its erection, as well as its dedication, are totally unknown. Numerous dilapidated ruins on the opposite hill point out the site of the ancient Segeste. Indeed the whole mountain is

covered with fragments of buildings and walls; but nothing remains entire, except a structure, considered as a theatre, open to the east, and commanding an extensive view of the distant country and the sea. The style of architecture is not remarkable, and the stones are of a moderate size; but the form justifies the common opinion, that it was originally a theatre, though not of the best æra. Traces of a road leading to the city are still visible.

The city of Segeste is said to have been founded by Æneas, when he landed in Sicily, during his tedious peregrination in search of a new abode. It was long the rival of Selinunte. In the course of their struggles it recurred to the Athenians for aid; and when they were defeated under Nicias, by the Syracusans, it next invited the Carthaginians into Sicily. After destroying its rival by their assistance, it underwent the usual fate attending such connexions, and was subjected to its own allies.

Segeste is very unfavourably situated, on rocky and uneven ground, surrounded by sterile mountains, exposed to the violence of winds, and without the advantage of a navigable river. Castel-a-Mare is generally considered as the emporium

of the Segestians; but its distance from their city must have subjected them to great inconvenience.

Having secured a lodging on the spot, in a Masseria belonging to the Barone Lamia, of Trapani, I enjoyed an opportunity of examining the beautiful Temple, which gives consequence to these remains in every point of view. From its insulated and solitary situation, it forms a most picturesque and interesting object.

Friday, March 5. This morning I felt the truth of my former observation respecting the bleak and exposed situation of Segeste. From the violence of the wind and rain, I despaired of being able to quit my lonely abode this whole day. At eleven o'clock, however, I ordered my equipage to be prepared, and proceeded on my journey, though I momentarily expected that the wind would overset my litter. After I quitted Segeste its fury abated, and in seven hours I safely reached Trapani. Nature, perhaps, seldom formed, or imagination conceived a more bleak and dreary scene, than the interval between Segeste and Trapani. An open, extensive country; hilly, rather than mountainous; for the most part totally uncultivated; and with no other marks of population, than a few scattered dwellings, and some herds of goats, accompanied by their rustic keepers.

Saturday, March 6. My stay at Trapani, the site of the ancient Drepanum*, is chiefly rendered interesting by the poetical celebrity which it owes to Virgil. On this shore Æneas landed after the destruction of Troy, and here lost his father Anchises.

"Hinc Drepani me portus et illætabilis ora
Accipit. Huc, pelagi tot tempestatibus actus,
Heu! genitorem, omnis curæ casusque levamen,
Amitto Anchisen."

The following year after his departure from Carthage, he is enveloped in darkness and tempest; and by the advice of the pilot Palinurus, makes for this shore.

"Et vespere ab atro
Consurgunt venti; atque in nubem cogitur aër.
Nec nos obniti contra, nec tendere tantum,
Sufficimus: superat quoniam fortuna sequamur;
Quoque vocat, vertamus iter. Nec littora longe
Fida reor fraterna Erycis, portusque Sicanos."

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* Drepanum.—This town is distant from Lilybæum about a hundred and twenty stadia; and both on account of its commodious situation, as well as for the excellence of the harbour, had always been considered, by the Carthaginians, as a place of the last importance, and was guarded by them with the greatest care.—*Polybius*, b. i. c. 4.

See! from the west what thwarting winds arise!
How in one cloud are gather'd half the skies!
In vain our course we labour to maintain,
And, struggling, work against the storm in vain.
Let us, since fortune mocks our toil, obey,
And speed our voyage where she points the way:
For not far distant lies the realm that bore
Your brother Eryx, the Sicilian shore.

ÆN. book v.

To this advice of Palinurus Æneas replies:—

"An sit mihi gratior ulla,
Quoque magis fessas optem dimittere naves;
Quam quæ Dardanium tellus mihi servat Acestem,
Et patris Anchisæ gremio complectitur ossa."

Oh! to what dearer land can I retreat?
There I may rig again my shatter'd fleet.
That land my father's sacred dust contains,
And there my Trojan friend, Acestes, reigns.

After being welcomed by their countryman, Acestes, and refreshing themselves with rest, Æneas thus addresses his companions:—

"Annuus exactis completur mensibus orbis;
Ex quo relliquias divinique ossa parentis
Condidimus terra, mœstasque sacravimus aras.
Jamque dies, ni fallor, adest."

Now the full circle of the year run round,
Since we dispos'd my sire in foreign ground,
Rais'd verdant altars to the mighty shade.

And paid all funeral honours to the dead;
And now the fatal day is just return'd.

The poet then describes the sacrifices at the tomb of Anchises, and the games celebrated to honour his memory. The *Isola d'Asinello* appears to be the rock alluded to in these lines.

"Est procul in pelago saxum, spumantia contra
Littora; quod tumidis submersum tunditur olim
Fluctibus, hyberni condunt ibi sidera Cori:
Tranquillo silet, immotâque attollitur undâ
Campus, et apricis statio tutissima mergis.
Hic viridem Æneas frondenti ex ilice metam
Constituit, signum nautis, pater: unde reverti
Scirent, et longos ubi circumflectere cursus."

Far in the main a rock advances o'er
The level tides, and fronts the foamy shore,
That hid beneath the rolling ocean lies,
When the black storms involve the starry skies;
But in a calm its lofty head displays,
To rest the birds who wing the spacious seas.
Here the great hero fix'd an oaken bough,
A mark, that nodded o'er the cragged brow,
To teach the train to steer the backward way,
And fetch a shorter circle round the sea.

The place for the foot race must also have been near the base of Mons Eryx, now St. Giuliano, as there is no other rising ground in the vicinity.

"Hoc pius Æneas misso certamine tendit
Gramineum in campum, quem collibus undique curvis
Cingebant sylvæ: mediâque in valle theatri
Circus erat."

This contest o'er, with thousands in his train,
Mov'd the great hero to a spacious plain,
High hills the verdant theatre surround,
And waving woods the mighty circuit crown'd.

These solemnities were interrupted by a catastrophe, which threatened to frustrate all the labours of the Trojan hero. While the warriors were engaged in the games, the women, by a sudden impulse of despair, which the poet ascribes to the instigation of Juno, set fire to the fleet; but all the ships, except four, were saved by Jupiter, at the prayer of Æneas. On his departure, the hero founded a city on the spot, and consigned the government of it to Acestes.

"Interea Æneas urbem designat aratro,
Sortiturque domos: hoc Ilium, et hæc loca Trojæ
Esse jubet. Gaudet regno Trojanus Acestes,
Indicitque forum, et patribus dat jura vocatis.
Tum vicina astris Erycino in vertice sedes
Fundatur Veneri Idaliæ; tumuloque sacerdos
Et lucus latè sacer additur Anchisæo."

The prince then drew a city on the plain;
Next he assign'd the dwellings to the train,
Now a new Ilion in Trinacria rose,
And a new Simois and Scamander flows.

Well pleas'd, Acestes took the sov'reign sway:
Th' adopted subjects their new prince obey.
The king conven'd the peers around, and sate
To frame new laws, and regulate the state.
To Venus' name they bid a temple rise
From Eryx' top, high tow'ring to the skies.
And next a priest and ample grove were made,
For ever sacred to Anchises' shade.

Mons Eryx*, here mentioned, is now known by the name of *Monte di Trapani*, or *Monte St. Giuliano*. It is reckoned one of the highest mountains in Sicily, and the summit is seldom free from clouds. It is five miles distant from Trapani. The temple itself, from which the goddess derived the title of Venus Erycina†, was long afterwards celebrated for its riches and splen-

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* The mountain Eryx is situated on that part of the Sicilian coast which looks toward Italy, between Drepanum and Panormus; but lies nearest to the former of these cities, and is most difficult of access on that side. It is the largest of the mountains of Sicily, Ætna alone excepted. On the top, which is a level plain, stands a temple dedicated to Erycinian Venus, which, in splendour, wealth, and beauty, is acknowledged to be far superior to all the other temples of the island. Below the summit lies the town, the ascent to which is very long and difficult.—*Polybius*, i. 5.

† Ælian, in his work "De Naturâ Animalium," mentions several circumstances relating to this temple.—Lib. iv. 2, and lib. x. 50.

dour. I was prevented from ascending to the summit, by the uncommon badness of the weather. But the only remains of antiquity still extant are a few large stones, which were part of the substructions of an ancient building; and a well said to have been sacred to the presiding divinity. At the foot of the eminence is a large convent and church of Carmelites, where the miraculous Madonna di Trapana is preserved. Nothing can be more dreary than the situation of Trapana, surrounded by a large space of ground, laid out in salt beds and a flat extensive beach, without gardens, and even scarcely the appearance of a vegetable. The inhabitants are also indebted to an aqueduct for their supply of fresh water. Yet with all these disadvantages the place carries on a brisk trade in salt and coral, and maintains a considerable tunny fishery. Here are also some ingenious artists, who fabricate tolerable cameos out of the various species of shells found on the coast.

Sunday, March 7. After waiting some time in the expectation that the weather would clear up, and finding it impossible to ascend the mountain, I departed for Marsala, which I reached in less than seven hours. The roads were rendered much worse, and the rivers and brooks swollen by the late heavy rains. Leaving the

village of Paceco to the left, I pursued my track through an open country, cultivated with corn, and a few scattered fruit trees. On my approach to Marsala I observed some vineyards, and many tall palms, and the country more abundant in trees; but not one agreeable point of view presented itself between the two cities. The island of Pantaleone, about five miles from Marsala, towards Trapani, deserves notice, as the site of the ancient city of Motya, celebrated in the wars between the Carthaginians and the Syracusans. In the year 397 before Christ, it was taken by Dionysius the tyrant of Syracuse, who laid siege to it with an army of eighty thousand foot and three thousand horse. The inhabitants, supported by Imilcon, made a most vigorous defence; but the Carthaginian general was so terrified with the effects of the engine, called the *catapulta*, then a new invention, that he retired to Africa. The besieged, in their turn, also practised new methods of annoying the assailants, but were unable to baffle superior force, directed, perhaps, with superior skill. This island is so near the main land, that a communication was formed with it. This space of ground is so small, that I could scarcely imagine it to have been the seat of so rich and powerful a city; yet it corresponds so exactly with the description of Diodorus, as to leave no doubt that this was the real situation of Motya.

It now contains only one farm-house; and before it was cultivated, I was informed that the ruins of the ancient walls were yet to be traced. Fazellus, and other Sicilian authors, have fallen into a gross error in placing Motya on the *Isola delle Femmine*, near Capo Gallo. At Marsala I was hospitably received and lodged, in the house of the Baron d'Anna; to whom I carried a letter of recommendation.

Monday, March 8. The present city of Marsala occupies a part of the ground on which stood the ancient Lilybæum, one of the strongest places in Sicily. It gave its name to one of the three promontories*, namely, the western, now called

* The whole of Sicily, in its situation, bears the same respect to Italy as the Peloponnesus does to the rest of Greece. But in this they are different; that the one is an island, separated from the continent by a narrow sea; the other a peninsula, the approach to which lies along a small neck of land. The form of Sicily is triangular; and the angles are so many promontories. The first, inclining to the south, and extending into the Sicilian sea, is called Pachynus. The second named Pelorus, and standing to the north, bounds the straits upon the western side; and is distant from Italy about twelve miles stadia. The third, which is the western promontory, called Lilybæum, stands opposite to the shore of Africa, and lies commodious for passing over to those promontories, which we before have mentioned,

Cape Boeo, which is nearly opposite the coast of Africa. The distance, however, is calculated to be above a hundred miles; so that there will be little need to combat the account of Strabo, and other ancient as well as modern writers, that the

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being distant from them about a thousand stadia. It also divides the seas of Africa and Sardinia.

"Adjoining to this last promontory was a city of the same name, which the Romans were now preparing to besiege. It was secured by a wall and ditch, of a very uncommon strength and depth, and by standing lakes, that were filled by the waters of the sea; and as the passage to the harbour lay over these, it was not to be entered without the greatest hazard, by those that were acquainted with the ground."—*Hampton's Polybius*, i. 3.

With regard to the difficulty of entering the port of Lilybæum, Polybius observes:—

"The Rhodian was encouraged in this bold attempt, by his perfect knowledge of the coast, which taught him in what manner he might best avoid the banks of sand that lay at the entrance of the harbour. For this purpose, having first gained the open sea, he from thence held on his course, as if he had sailed from Italy; taking care to keep a certain tower, that stood upon the shore, in a line so direct and even with his prow, that it covered from his view the other towers, which looked towards the coast of Africa. And this, indeed, was the only route by which a vessel, sailing before the wind, could gain the port in safety.—i. 4.

coast of Africa has been plainly descried from hence without the aid of telescopes. Marsala is finely situated, commanding a noble and extensive view of the sea, diversified with the three islands of Maretimo, Levanzo, and Favignano, and enjoying a delicious air; but the environs are dreary, from the stony nature of the soil, and the want of trees and shade. The ancient city, according to the opinion of so able a judge as Polybius, derived its chief strength from the deep ditches which bounded it on the eastern and western sides. Those to the west remain tolerably perfect, and may be traced to the sea, which apparently flowed into them. These artificial defences covered the place on three sides towards the land, and the fourth was open towards the sea. Of this once splendid and powerful city few other monuments remain, to attest its pristine grandeur. Indeed the only pieces of antiquity are a grotto, under the church of St. Giovanni, called the Sibyll's cave, in the midst of which rises a spring of water; the remains of a circular pavement; and some antique paintings. To these we may add, a few scattered inscriptions, and a fine alabaster vase, in the possession of Conte Grignano. There is a large church, cut out of the rock, called the *Madonna della Grotta*, with some paintings on the walls, which are ascribed to the early ages of Christianity. Near this are immense underground quar-

ries of stone, extending many miles. The steeple of the church called the Carmine deserves attention, on account of a striking peculiarity, of which the cause has not yet been satisfactorily explained. On ringing the bell, the whole fabric vibrates to a degree that is sensible to the eye; for as the steeple is separated only a few inches from the wall of the church, I distinctly saw the motion. As the building is low, the effect is not dangerous, though it produces the momentary impression of an earthquake. The port, which is at a short distance to the west of the town, is very capacious and noble. During the reign of Charles the Fifth, the entrance was stopped, to prevent the ingress of pirates, by whom, from its vicinity to Africa, it was much infested. The Saracen appellation, which superseded the ancient name of Lilybæum, was Marset Allah, or the Port of God: at present it is called *Lo Stagnone*, from its similarity to a stagnant piece of water. The approach is rendered dangerous by sunk rocks, to which Virgil thus alludes:—

Et vada dura lego saxis Lilybëïa cæcis.

And another author:—

Exterrensque rates, Lilybæia cautibus aspris
Eminet ad zephyrum Lilybe.

Marsala is a handsome and populous city. The cathedral is adorned with sixteen very fine marble columns, each formed of a single block. The great Thomas á Becket, our countryman, has the honour of being the patron saint of the city.

Tuesday, March 9. At break of day I left Marsala, and in four hours arrived at Mazzara, another town on the sea coast. The first and last parts of the road were rough and stony. Great part of the tract ran through an open and uncultivated country, abounding in dwarf palm trees, and various aromatic shrubs, particularly rosemary. The territory of Marsala produces good wines, many of which are exported to England; they are strong, improve by the transport, and preserve their spirit and flavour many years. A vessel is now lading for Liverpool. This district also produces the Soda plant, which is sown in March, and gathered and burnt in August. This article is very profitable.

Although Mazzarum, from which Mazzara derived its origin, made no conspicuous figure in the wars of the Greeks, Carthaginians, and Sicilians, there is no reason to doubt its antiquity; for it is mentioned by early historians, and many vestiges of a distant age are found in the vicinity. From a passage of Diodorus, it is supposed to

have been the emporium of Selinunte, on which republic it was dependent. He observes, "Hannibal having collected the troops of the Ægestans and other allies, breaking up his camp from Lilybæum, directed his march towards Selinunte. When he came to the river Mazzara, he took the emporium, situated there, at the first assault." The present city appears to have occupied the same spot, for it is built on the margin of the river, which forms a small port under its walls. It now contains no object to detain a traveller. I observed three ancient sarcophagi in the cathedral. One, though much injured by time, displays considerable merit with regard to sculpture; but the other two are far inferior. Over the door is an equestrian figure of King Ruggiero, with a Turk prostrate under his horse's feet. In different parts of the city are broken fragments of granite columns, and a few scattered inscriptions. The city itself does not deserve notice: it is not very populous, and the inhabitants are of the middling class.

After dinner I departed; and continued to traverse the same kind of open, stony country, to Campo Bello. I had time to visit the stone quarries in the neighbourhood of that place, which merit attention, as the sources from whence the Selinuntines probably drew the material used

in the construction of their noble temples. Numerous fragments of extraordinary size are scattered about near the quarries; and two columns remain, rounded, and hollowed out of the native rock, but still adhering by their bases. One measured thirty-six feet in circumference, the other thirty-three; their height is about nine feet. By means of a letter, which the servant of the Barone d'Anna procured me at Mazzara, I obtained a very good lodging at a casino, belonging to the Principe Villarosata.

Wednesday, March 10. Early in the morning I quitted Campo Bello, and for some miles found the soil and aspect the same. I then passed into a rich country, producing corn, olives, vines, almonds, &c. and enlivened with many fine pine trees. Afterwards I again traversed some wild uncultivated plains, and reached the Marinella of Castel Vetrano. Except in a few places, I found the road tolerably good. I crossed only one river, on the bank of which was a grove of the finest orange trees. From the badness of the weather I was obliged to make a considerable circuit, in order to gain my intended quarters; which, by the kindness of the owner, were ready for my reception, and a supply provided of wine, and every other necessary. Soon after my arrival, he came,

himself, and spent the day with me, loading me with unaffected civilities and obliging attentions.

Being acquainted with the situation of Selinunte, at the distance of many miles I descried its remains, vulgarly called the *Pilieri del Castel Vetrano.* These consist of three temples, facing east and west, all in the most dilapidated state, yet magnificent even in ruin. I was amazed on beholding these vast masses of stone, and on considering the power and knowledge necessary to raise them to the extraordinary height which the proportions of the temples required.

The outermost temple, towards the north, is of the old Doric order, with fluted columns and bases. The middle temple is the smallest, and of the same order; the columns fluted, but without bases. It appears to have been ornamented with the same number of columns as the temple of Segeste, namely, six in front, and fourteen at the sides, including those at the angles; in all thirty-six. The circumference of each column is about eighteen feet, and the intercolumniations about ten. The other temple towards the south, is by far the largest and the most stupendous fabric I have hitherto beheld. A few stems of the columns are standing, and one nearly of the original height. In the eastern front are the remains of two fluted columns,

but all the rest are plain. Hence I conclude, that this edifice was left in an unfinished state, and that the rest of the columns were also intended to be fluted. On the western front is an excavation, by which two steps have been discovered. Between the last step and the plane on which the columns rest, without bases, is a considerable space. I am not architect enough to delineate the plan of these temples; such is the confusion of capitals, architraves, columns, &c. scattered on the ground. These three temples are situated on an eminence, opposite the ancient city, and in the interval between was the port, now choked up; and as there are no fragments of any other building whatever, it appears evident that they were at a considerable distance from the place itself. The circumference of the walls is easily traced, by the fragments still extant on the opposite hill, where the guard tower, called *Torre delli Pulci*, is built. The remains of three other temples, of the old Doric order, with fluted columns, are here visible. They are of different sizes, and inferior in magnitude to those already mentioned. The middle temple is the largest, and most elevated. Two have four steps, including the plane on which the columns rest, without bases; the third appears to have had no step, if we may judge from an excavation made on the west front. Amidst the ruins of this temple I observed the most perfect capital

I had yet seen. Round the summit of the column, where it unites with the capital, or rather round the bottom of the capital, are three rims, very neatly cut. The columns on one side of the middle temple, from north to south, lie on the ground in such regular order, that I am inclined to believe their fall was occasioned by an earthquake.

From history we learn that Selinunte, the rival republic of Segeste, was destroyed by Hannibal, the Carthaginian general. It was afterwards rebuilt, and recovered its former splendour; but in the year 268 A. C. it was retaken by the same enemies, and the inhabitants transferred to Lilybæum. In later times it was ruined by the Saracens, who landed here April 15, A. D. 827. They destroyed all the inhabitants, and gave to the city the new name of Beldel Braghit, which signifies *Terra delle Pulci*, or the land of fleas.

This anecdote, and the derivation of the name, which had, by different writers, been deduced from Pollux, Polluce, &c., have been brought to light by the Arabic Code, lately published at Palermo*.

* This publication, consisting of three or four large quarto volumes, was in the course of printing during my residence in Sicily, and was eagerly bought up and read; it

If we may judge of its former population by the extent of its walls, I should deem it by no means large; but the remains of stones, bricks, wells, &c., for a considerable distance without, seem to imply that the suburbs were considerable. Near the guard tower are two large vaults, built of massive stones.

The ancient name, Selinus, is said to have been derived from the Greek word Σελινον, signifying *apium*, parsley *; of which Fazellus says the soil produced much in his time. It was built by the inhabitants of Megara, who were settled in the country between Syracusa and Leontium, now Lentini. Thucydides says, "the Megarans, who are also called Hyblenses, an hundred years after their city Megara was founded, sent hither Pammilus, and founded Selinunte." And Strabo confirms his

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appeared to throw great light on the history of the island during the dominion of the Saracens; but shortly after my departure it was fully proved to be in a great measure a literary fabrication. It bears for title, "Codice Diplomatico di Sicilia sotto il governo degli Arabi." Palermo, 1789, &c.

* "Urbi fluvioque etiam illam ad occidentem præter labenti Selinûntis veteres nomen indiderunt ab apio, quocircum positus ager ætate etiam meâ plurimum abundat."

testimony. Virgil mentions it in his description of the voyage of Æneas along this coast, and gives it the epithet of *palmosa*, which it does not at present merit.

> Teque datis linquo ventis, palmosa Selinûs:
> Et vada dura lego saxis Lilybeïa cæcis.

Friday, March 12. The badness of the weather prevented me from continuing my drawings, observations, and measurements; and being engaged to dine with my kind host at Castel Vetrano, I with regret took leave of these venerable and magnificent relics, which I confess gave me more pleasure than the perfect and well-preserved Temple of Segeste. For this it is easy to account. Works of architecture, as well as statuary, when executed with just proportions, lose their apparent magnitude in their symmetry and harmony, as has been felt by every one who has viewed the church of St. Peter, at Rome, and the figure of Apollo in the Vatican. Such is likewise the case with the Temple of Segeste. But amidst the ruins of Selinunte the eye wanders with astonishment over the huge masses, scattered on the ground in the wildest confusion; and the painter may find an almost inexhaustible variety of subjects to employ his pencil in these remains, which are the most gigantic and picturesque I have ever seen. In proof of their

magnitude one instance may suffice. On the ground, at some distance from the temples, is a stone, twenty-six feet in length, which, from its form, was probably intended as part of the architrave of the largest temple.

Castel Vetrano is a considerable town, though at present it contains not above a third part of its former population. Here is little to attract the attention of a stranger. An old rusty armoury of the Dukes of Terranova; a fine marble sarcophagus, brought from Spain, now in the church of St. Dominica; and a statue of St. John, by Gagini, in the church of St. Giovanni, of considerable merit, but much injured in its appearance by colouring and gilding; these were all the curiosities which a native of the place, however partial to his own soil, thought worthy of being shewn.

The view from Castel Vetrano is very fine. The eye glances over the whole plain, bounded by the sea, and rests on the ruins and temples at Selinunte, while the variety of fruit-trees, and the general cultivation, exhibit the appearance of a continued garden. The soil is highly productive, and the wines are esteemed among the best in Sicily. I tasted several sorts, which were all good; but that called Capriata is excellent. Towards the north, beyond Castel Vetrano, are many towns and

villages; among which I distinguished Salemi, St. Ninfa, and Partanna, as well as many others. Not far from the last stood the ancient and strong city of Entella. The site of Salemi was also occupied by the ancient Halycia. On the derivation of the word Salemi, Cluverius and others have hazarded many curious conjectures; but from the Saracen Code it appears that the ancient appellation of Halica, or Halycia, was superseded by that of Saleiman, the name of the beloved son of Ahsed Ben Forad, the Saracen general, who died at the siege and capture of the place, March 25, 828.

Saturday, March 13. Early in the morning I left Castel Vetrano, and proceeded on my journey to Memfri, a petty village belonging to the Duke of Monteleone. In my way was the river Belice, anciently Hypsa, the largest I had yet crossed; but I fortunately found a bridge. The first part of the road ran through a rich enclosed country, and afterwards through an open uncultivated tract, abounding in cork trees. Near Memfri, the produce is chiefly corn, and some soda; which, since the late tumults in France, does not find a market. I was hospitably received at Memfri by the Segretario and Vicario of the place. After partaking of their fare, I proceeded to Sciacca, where I arrived in three hours. The country was chiefly open, and cultivated with corn.

Sunday, March 14. At Sciacca my lodging was very pleasant. I was admitted into the Franciscan convent, without the town, and from my windows enjoyed a delightful view of the sea, and the coast towards Girgenti.

Sciacca is agreeably situated on an eminence above the sea. The environs are varied, and well cultivated, and the mountain of St. Calogero appears to advantage, heightening the general effect of the landscape. This place carries on a considerable trade in corn, being one of the *caricatori* of Sicily, and maintains a productive anchovy fishery. It was once commanded by two old baronial castles; and the circuit of the walls is about three miles. In the time of the Greeks it was dependent on the republic of Selinunte, and known by the name of *Aquæ*, or *Thermæ Selinuntiæ*. I do not, however, imagine it was then a city, as no fragments of antiquity are extant. But it was, probably, frequented and celebrated, as in recent periods, for its medicinal springs and vapour baths, which are very powerful and efficacious. The springs at the foot of the mountain, and those near the town, are of two kinds: one, a sulphureous boiling water, like that in the neighbourhood of Naples; the other, called *Aqua Santa*, is tepid and purgative. But the most celebrated baths are those of St. Calogero, on the summit of the mountain, three miles distant

from Sciacca. Here is a handsome church and several buildings, for the accommodation of those who use the baths, and of the hermits, who attend the patients. The baths at present in vogue are supposed to be the same which were known to the ancients, and ascribed to Dædalus. They correspond with the description given by Diodorus: "At Dædalus apud Cocalum ac Sicanos, multum temporis consumit, et apud omnes, ob artis excellentiam, in magnâ fuit auctoritate, et honore singulari. Ediditque opera nonnulla hîc, quæ ad hanc usque diem permanent. Specum in Selinuntiorum finibus adornavit, in quo vaporem a subterraneo isthic igne exæstuantem, tam dextrè excepit, ut tenero sensim calore sudor eliciatur, et cum voluptate quadam in ibi versantium corpora paullatim sine ullâ fervoris molestiâ curentur." Seats for the patients are cut round the cavern, and appear to be the workmanship of remote times; and letters have been traced, indicating inscriptions, but in what language has not yet been ascertained.

On opening the door a strong vapour and thick smoke issue forth, like the blast of hot wind from bellows. I entered for some paces, but the violence of the heat forced me to retire; as I did not chuse to risk the consequences of being thrown into a profuse sweat, which is the effect almost instantaneously produced on those who remain

but a short time. The cause is obvious. The mountain is full of cavities, which are the seat of subterranean fire, as is evident from the hot springs flowing at its foot. The vapour and smoke are, therefore, the rarified particles of the fluid, which find a vent through the perforations leading into this cavern. In digging the foundations of a magazine, many sepulchres excavated in the rock have been discovered, which may possibly have been formed by the Saracens, during their possession of Sciacca.

Monday, March 15. Left Sciacca, and in six hours and a half reached Cattolica. In my way I passed by fords over three large rivers; the Verdura, Macasoli, and Platani, anciently called the Sossius, the Isburus, and the Halycus. Near the banks of the last, not far from Campo Bianco, was situated the very ancient city of Heraclea, or Minoa. The last and most early appellation was derived from King Minos, according to a passage of Heraclides. "Minoa, Siciliæ urbs Macara dicta est, postea Minos, quum Dædalus audisset illo magnâ classe, accessisse, âdscendens fluvium Lycum, eâ urbe potitus est, superatisque barbaris, suum illi nomen imposuit: et Creticis legibus rempublicam firmavit." Another passage, from Diodorus, shews how the name of Minoa was superseded by that of Heraclea, from the Heraclides, descendants of

Hercules. "Acceptâ tandem Erix conditione, in certamen descendit; sed victus regionis possessione exuitur. Quem Hercules interim ut depositum incolis ad usum fructuum concedit; dum ex se natorum, aliquis eam repeteret. Id quod postmodum evenit. Post multas enim ætates Doricus Lacedæmonius in Siciliam profectus, recuperatâ ditione avitâ Heracleam ibi extruxit, quæ subditis incrementis amplificata, invidiam Carthaginiensibus injecit, et metum, ne quando supra Carthaginem invalescens principatum pœnis adimeret. Ideo magnis copiis aggressi, vi tandem captam, funditùs diruerunt." It is afterwards mentioned as a colony of the Selinuntines; and is noticed in the oration of Cicero against Verres.

Being informed by the inhabitants of the country, that the only visible traces of this ancient place consist merely of a few scattered bricks and stones, and finding the report confirmed by the Itinerary of the Prince of Biscaris, I did not visit the spot. In the time of Fazellus, an aqueduct and other remains were extant.

On the summit of a very lofty mountain, before I crossed the Verdura, I observed Calta Bellotta, near which was the site of the ancient Tricala, thus described by Diodorus. "Castellum autem inde nomen Tricala habere aiunt, quod in

se τρια καλα, id est, tria pulchra, contineat: primum enim aquis fontanis eximiæ dulcedinis abundat; dein agros habet adjacentes vinetorum olivetorumque plantationi, ac frugum culturæ mirum in modum idoneos: tertio locus tam firmus est, nihil suprà: utpote magna rupe, atque inexpugnabili, a naturâ, extructus." It was also a post of some consequence in the Servile war: "Servili vastata Triocala bello."

The principal part of the road runs near the sea, and much of it even skirts the beach. The country is little cultivated, and almost in a state of nature, except the plains watered by the rivers. After crossing the Platani, I left the coast to the right, and directed my course to Cattolica, a small town, pleasantly situated amidst the mountains, and belonging to the prince of the same name. I was very hospitably received by the Barone de Borzellino, to whom I carried a letter of recommendation. The new church, which is not yet finished, is a far more handsome structure than I expected to find in a remote recess of the mountains. Here is a convent of nuns, who are skilful in painting flowers in enamel. At a short distance from the town are some sulphur works. The substance of the mountains is a shining stone, like alabaster, of which the inhabitants make gess and lime.

Tuesday, March 16. Left Cattolica, and pursued my track amidst the mountains, till in five hours and a half I reached Girgenti. The mountains round Cattolica, and as far as Girgenti, are well cultivated, almost to their summits: the soil appears fertile, but the number of habitations is by no means proportionate to the quantity of ground which is tilled. I crossed one river before I reached that of Girgenti, the ancient Agragas, over which a fine bridge is thrown. I took up my lodging at the Convent of Capuchins, without the town, in order to be near the ruins of the old city. The Franciscan Convent of S. Nicolo is still nearer, and would have been preferable, but it has been suppressed.

GIRGENTI is justly esteemed one of the objects which most worthily deserve the attention of every traveller in Sicily; as well from the distinguished part it bore in the wars between the Romans and Carthaginians in this island, as from the noble remains of pristine grandeur and magnificence still existing. It is mentioned by the classic writers, under the names of Acragas and Agrigentum; the former is the appellation of the river which flows on the western part of the city, now called Drago. To the east its territory is washed by two other rivers, the Ruscello and Hypsa. Its foundation is

thus stated by Thucydides: "Gelam Antiphemus e Rhodo, et Entimus e Cretâ, ducentes colonos, communi opera condiderunt Anno XLV. postquam Syracusæ conditæ. Anno verò prope CVIII. a suæ urbis primordio, Gelenses Acragantem condiderunt, a flumine denominantes urbem." Ælian mentions that the river Acragas had attained the honours of divinity, being worshipped under the form of a beautiful boy. "Acragantini cognominem urbi fluvium, speciosi pueri formâ, effingentes illi sacrificant."

Polybius thus describes its state and peculiarities in his time: book ix. extract 5.

"Agrigentum excels almost all other cities, not only in the advantages that have been mentioned, but in strength likewise, and especially in ornament and beauty. Situated at the distance of only eighteen stadia from the sea, it possesses all the conveniences which the sea procures. The whole circuit of the city is rendered uncommonly strong, both by nature and art; for the walls are built upon a rock, which, partly by nature, and partly from the labour of art, is very steep and broken. It is surrounded also by rivers on different sides. On the side towards the south, by a river of the same name as the city; and on the west and south-west, by that which is called the Hypsas.

The citadel, which stands upon a hill on the north-west side, is secured all round the outside by a deep and inaccessible valley; and has one way only by which it may be entered from the city. On the summit of the hill is a temple, dedicated to Minerva, and another to Jupiter Atabyrius*, as at Rhodes. For as the Agrigentines were a colony from Rhodes, they gave to this deity, not improperly, the same appellation by which he was distinguished in the island from which they came. The city also itself, which is in all respects magnificent, is adorned with porticos and temples. Among these, the temple of Jupiter Olympius, though not finished, indeed, with great splendour, is equal in size and in design to any of the temples of Greece."

According to Diodorus, four hundred and six years before Christ, it drew on itself the enmity of the Carthaginians, by refusing to embrace their alliance, or even to remain neuter. It was accordingly besieged by their generals Hannibal and Hamilcar. The former, with many of his troops, died of a pestilential disorder, derived from the putrid effluvia of the tombs, which were opened

* Atabyris, a mountain in Rhodes, where Jupiter had a temple, whence he was sirnamed Atabyrius.—*Lempriere.*

and destroyed for the sake of the stone. But from want of timely assistance, and scarcity of provisions, the Agrigentines were obliged to abandon their city, and fly for protection to Gela; from whence they were transferred to the city of the Leontines, which was allotted to them by the republic of Syracuse.

Previous to this siege, which lasted eight years, we find, from Diodorus, that the inhabitants had attained a high degree of affluence, and its consequent magnificence and luxury.

"No territory in the world was more happily situated. Its vines were of an extraordinary beauty and height; but the greater part of the country was cultivated with olive trees, yielding a prodigious quantity of oil, which was sold at Carthage; for at that time there were very few olive plantations in Libya, and the Sicilians, from the commerce of their fruits, drew great riches from Carthage. To these riches were owing the many superb monuments erected in their city." The historian then mentions the celebrated Temple of Jupiter, the lake, and the sepulchral structures. To so great a pitch did they carry their luxury, that they erected tombs to the memory of the horses which gained prizes at the games; and even to the favourite birds of the young boys and girls. A

native of Agrigentum, Exænetus, who was victor, at the games, returned to the city in a chariot, accompanied with a numerous cavalcade, among which were three hundred chariots, drawn each by two milk white steeds, bred at Agrigentum. The children were educated in the most effeminate manner. Their habits were of the finest and most expensive texture, and loaded with gold, silver, and jewels. At that time the most opulent citizen was Gellias, who was likewise the most hospitable. Several servants were stationed at his doors to invite into the house all strangers who happened to pass. Many other citizens were distinguished for their hospitality, but none exceeded Gellias. During the winter season five hundred knights of Gela, having occasion to traverse Agrigentum, Gellias not only received and lodged them, but at their departure presented each with a cloak. His cellars, and the quantity of wine which they contained, are described as objects of astonishment. The figure of this generous and liberal citizen did not correspond with his character: he was diminutive in person, and emaciated in appearance. Being sent on an embassy to the city of Centuripæ, now Centorbi, on entering the assembly his mean figure called forth a general burst of laughter. He, however, repelled the insult with a pointed sarcasm. He told the scoffers, that the Agrigentines sent their handsomest and most comely men to the

illustrious cities of Sicily; but to those of little or no distinction they deputed ambassadors like himself.

The historian afterwards describes the riches of another citizen, Antisthenes, and his profusion on the marriage of his daughter.

To such a pitch were the luxury and effeminacy of the meanest inhabitant grown, that, during the siege already mentioned, an order was issued, restraining every citizen, who mounted guard in rotation, to the use of one mattress, one coverlid, and two pillows. Indeed, Empedocles the philosopher, himself an Agrigentine, has left a pointed, but apparently just character of his countrymen: "Agrigentinos ita ædificare, ac si perpetuò victuri, ita convivari ac si postridiè morituri forent."

Nothing, perhaps, is more erroneous than the judgment formed, in early times, on the extent of population in different places and countries. Empedocles is reported to have stated that of his native city at eight hundred thousand. But Diodorus, who describes it as the most opulent of all the Greek cities, fixes the amount, with far more appearance of truth, at two hundred thousand.

The conqueror Hamilcar spoiled Agrigentum of all its riches, valuable pictures, and statues; and

after sending to Carthage the most curious and precious articles, disposed of the remainder by public auction. Among the trophies sent to Carthage was the celebrated Bull of Phalaris, which, two hundred and sixty years afterwards, on the destruction of Carthage, was restored to the Agrigentines by Scipio.

Sixty-one years after the siege of Agrigentum, or three hundred and forty-five before Christ, the Syracusans sent a deputation to Corinth, to request a commander, capable of delivering them from their foreign and domestic tyrants, and of re-establishing peace and harmony in the island. The person selected for this enterprise was the brave and virtuous Timoleon*. He delivered Sicily from its numerous petty tyrants, expelled Diony-

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* Timoleon, the Corinthian, to whom these epithets have been generally applied, was so great an enemy to tyranny, that he did not hesitate to murder his own brother, Timophanes, who had endeavoured to take upon him an absolute authority in Corinth. The sense of liberty, which was awakened in his breast by the following speech addressed to him by a magistrate, induced him to comply with the request of the Syracusans. "Timoleon," says he, "if you accept the command of this expedition, we will believe that you have killed a tyrant; but if not, we cannot but call you your brother's murderer."—*Lempriere.*

sius the Younger, and gaining a signal victory over the Carthaginians, obliged them to sue for peace, and to admit the river Lycus as their boundary. Assisted by Cephalus, a celebrated legislator of Corinth, he also new modelled the laws of Diocles, and laid the foundation of future prosperity by his sage regulations, and by calling in new colonies to repeople the ruined towns of Sicily, and among the rest Agrigentum. After a residence of almost nine years, this upright and disinterested warrior and statesman closed his days at Syracuse, beloved and regretted by all. His memory was honoured and cherished by a grateful people. A considerable sum of money was voted, by a public decree, to defray the expenses of his funeral; and an aniversary was instituted to celebrate, with concerts of music and various games, the name and merits of Timoleon, "the conqueror of the barbarians, and the liberator of Sicily."

In the year 309 before Christ, while Agathocles, the tyrant of Syracuse, was absent in Lybia, waging war against the Carthaginians, the Agrigentines conceived the design of gaining the command over the other cities of Sicily, and expelling the Carthaginians from the island. For this purpose they selected Xenodicus their general, and gave him the command of an army with unlimited powers. He was at first successful, and appeared

likely to accomplish the liberation of the whole island; but being disconcerted by the return of Agathocles, and defeated by his general, Leptinus, he incurred the odium of his fellow-citizens, and was obliged to fly for refuge to Gela. The ambitious or liberal project of the Agrigentines was, consequently, totally frustrated. In the first Punic war, Agrigentum was taken by the Romans, and became a colony of their empire. At a later period it was captured by the Saracens, who subjected the greater part of Sicily to their barbarous dominion.

Such was the splendour, such the revolutions and fate of Agrigentum. The ruins of eleven temples, the sepulchres, and aqueducts, are all that remain to attest its ancient power and magnificence. Without such striking proofs subsisting after so long a lapse of ages, we might almost doubt the splendid descriptions left by the classic historians; but from the mausolea of the dead alone, which are astonishingly numerous, we may judge what must have been the amount of the living.

The ancient city was divided into five parts, MONS CAMICUS, RUPIS ATHENÆA, AGRIGENTUM, NEAPOLIS, and AGRIGENTUM IN CAMICO.

On the summit of Mons Camicus, which was

the most elevated part of the city, stood the strong and almost inaccessible fortress, built by Dædalus, for Cocalus, king of the Sicanians. The approach, which was the same as the modern path leading from the port, was so narrow and difficult, that the passage might have been defended by a few men against an army. The early name of this fortress was Omphace; and it is thus described by Diodorus:—

"Dædalus apud Cocalum et Sicanos multum temporis transegit; et apud omnes ob artis excellentiam, in magnâ fuit estimatione: nam et in eo, qui nunc Agrigentinus dicitur ager, apud Camicum urbem in rupe construxit, omnium munitissimam, et vi nullâ expugnandum: tam arctum quidpe et flexuosum cò fecit aditum, ut a trium aut quatuor hominum præsidio defendi possit; ideoque regiam in eâ Cocalus extruxit, opesque inibi reconditas, per hanc architecti solertiam facile tutas conservavit."

The remains of only one temple are extant on the Mons Camicus, which was dedicated to Jupiter Polienus. A part of the fabric, composed of large stones, and some traces of steps, are visible on the spot, where the church, called Sta. Maria delli Greci, is built. The greater part remains within a house adjoining this church.

The *Rupis Athenæa* joined the *Mons Camicus*, and extended eastwards. Both the northern and southern sides are formed by a natural perpendicular rock. That to the north was inaccessible, from its altitude. On the highest part of this rock was the temple sacred to Jupiter Atabyrius, and Minerva, mentioned by Polybius, in the passage already cited. To this temple the generous and hospitable Gellias fled for protection, during the siege of Agrigentum by Hamilcar, flattering himself that the enemy would respect so sacred a place; but finding that their rage for plunder knew no restraint, he set fire to the edifice, and there perished, with all the riches it contained. Of this ancient structure no traces remain, except some of the foundation stones, which mark its form and situation. Beneath the *Rupus Athenæa* was another celebrated temple, dedicated to Ceres and Proserpine; which was so highly venerated, that Pindar, in his Olympics, calls Agrigentum the seat of Proserpine.

The modern church of St. Blasi is built on the cell of the ancient temple, of which a great part still exists, composed of large square stones. The staircases, which rose on the eastern front, are yet visible. Its situation was very striking, and commanded a view of all the parts of the city. It was built on the verge of a precipice, and on the

northern side the rock was cut away to admit the structure. Even the road which led to it may be traced. From its vicinity to the rock on one side, and to the precipice on the other, many modern writers have supposed that it was without a portico, or columns: but from an attentive examination of the ground, I am convinced that there was sufficient space for the portico, between the cell and the rock; and the substructions of the platform, on the other side, are distinguishable on the declivity of the mountain. It is also evident, that the part remaining composed the cell; and we cannot suppose the Greeks, who manifested such taste in their buildings, and almost invariably adopted one style of architecture, with Doric fluted columns, would have deviated from their general rule in one instance, by giving a different form, and a smaller share of ornament, to a temple dedicated to the deities held in the highest veneration throughout the island. Fragments of columns, indeed, were once existing near the spot, as I was informed by one who had himself seen them. In reality we cannot wonder that no columns, and so few other traces, remain of these three temples, when we consider their high antiquity, and the vicissitudes they have undergone.

At a short distance beneath this last temple

are the traces of the ancient gate, which was cut in the rock, and led to the other quarter of the city, called Neapolis. This was situated on an eminence, extending still farther to the east. The small river Ruscello separated it from the *Rupis Athenæa* and Agrigentum, with which it communicated by a bridge. Here are no habitations of the living, but those of the dead are numerous.

The most western quarter of the city was *Agrigentum in Camico*, of which the ruins are very scanty. Like Neapolis, on the opposite side it communicated with Agrigentum, by means of a bridge thrown over an intermediate ravine, called *Valle di St. Leonardo*. Of this bridge the substructions are still visible, not far from the *Giardino della Fontana*. During the siege of Agrigentum, this bridge was broken down, by order of Hannibal.

The fifth and last quarter of the city, as well as the richest and most populous, was Agragas, extending toward the south. At present it is the only part which claims the peculiar attention of the traveller, as well from its fine situation, as from the numerous remains of temples still extant without it.

At the eastern extremity of the rock, and im-

pending over a precipice, stands the beautiful temple of Juno Lucina. It is of the Doric order, with fluted columns, eleven of which are yet standing. Till the year 1774, the whole northern side, consisting of thirteen columns, remained entire. Many other columns, which displayed symptoms of decay, have been preserved by timely reparation, lately made at the order of the King of Naples. On each side of this edifice were thirteen columns, including those at the angles, and six on each front; in all thirty-four. On each front of the cell were two columns, and at the angles two pilasters. Four steps led to the vestibule, the last of which varied from the others in the style of sculpture. The intermediate space between the cell and the outward part of the temple was hollow, and the entrance to this vault was at the north-west end. Three narrow rims were neatly cut round the summit of each column, where it joined the capital, and the same number round the foot. The columns were without bases, and adorned with twenty flutings. In this temple was preserved the celebrated picture of Juno, by Zeuxis. In order to give it more than human beauty, he collected all the young women of Agrigentum, and having chosen five of the most lovely, combined their several graces and excellencies in his representation of the goddess.

Not far distant, towards the west, is the Temple of Concord, almost in a perfect state of preservation; as nothing but the roof is wanting. The proportions of this temple, as well as the number of columns, are the same as those of the temple, erected to Juno Lucina. But the ornamental rims are only round the capitals, and not the columns, and the four steps are without sculpture. The walls and form of the cell are perfect; and on each side of it are three arches, or *vomitoria*. In the wall forming the eastern front of the cell were two niches, now closed up. The staircase is perfect; and consists of five steps, with a landing place at each turn. It appears to have led only to the roof. No signs of windows appear, so that the light was probably admitted through the *vomitoria* and doors.

An inscription, inserted in the wall of a house near the market-place of Girgenti, has been assigned to this temple; and, perhaps, has induced antiquaries to bestow on it the present designation:—

CONCORDIÆ AGRIGENTI
NORVM SACRVM
RESPUBLICA LILYBITANORVM DEDICANTIBVS
TI. HATERIO CANDIDO PRŌCŌS
ET . L . CORNELIO . MARCELLO Q̄
PR . PR.

I know not on what grounds this inscription has been assigned to the edifice, called the Temple of Concord; for the characters are ill formed, and in the style of the lower ages. Now, as I have often observed, that the decline of sculpture and architecture was accompanied by a corresponding deficiency of taste in the mechanical formation of letters, I cannot conclude, with many modern authors, that a temple built in the fine, pure, and simple style of Grecian architecture, can have any connexion with an inscription, carved in uncouth, and almost barbarous, characters.

The next temple, in the same direction towards the west, is supposed to have been dedicated to Hercules. It is of the same Doric order: the columns fluted, and without bases, but of larger diameters and proportions than those of the two preceding structures. Instead of thirteen, there are fourteen columns on each side; and six in front. Four steps of the cell seem to correspond with the plans of the other temples. Here was preserved a celebrated brazen image of the deified Hercules, of the most perfect and exquisite workmanship. Also the picture by Zeuxis, representing the infant Hercules strangling the serpents, in the presence of Alcmena and Amphytrion, which was so highly esteemed by the painter, that, thinking no price equal to its value, he presented

it to the Agrigentines. The attempt of the prætor Verres to plunder this rich temple, and his repulse, are related by Cicero in his oration against Verres.

All these sacred edifices were situated near the walls of the city, which were raised to a considerable height, on the verge of a lofty perpendicular rock, itself a natural fortification. To this advantage Virgil alludes:—

> Arduus inde Agragas ostentat maxima longe
> Mœnia.

Numerous sepulchres, some oblong, and others semicircular, appear to have been cut in these walls, which must have much weakened them. In the acclivity, extending the length of the wall, from the temple of Juno Lucina to that of Hercules, are also numerous sepulchral vaults; all of which are formed with a kind of funnel, or *spiramen*, probably to purify them, by promoting the circulation of the air. Between the temple of Concord and that of Hercules, an immense mass of the rock has fallen down, without the walls, which is full of these sepulchral niches, and exhibits a singular appearance.

Immediately beneath the temple of Hercules, was the *Porta di Mare*, leading from the city to

the mouth of the river Agragas, which was the emporium of the Agrigentines. Its distance, in a straight line from the gate, was eighteen stadia, or two miles and a quarter, and the traces of the road which was cut in the rock are still visible. Not far from this gate and road is a well-preserved building, vulgarly called the "Tomb of Theron." This appellation seems to have been derived from a fact recorded by Diodorus. During the siege of Agrigentum, as has been already mentioned, the Carthaginian army was visited by a dangerous pestilence, which was ascribed to the infectious air rising from the numerous sepulchres, which had been violated. A general panic and horror, in consequence, seized the whole army; and their terror was increased by an incident, which was considered as a proof of divine displeasure. A flash of lightning struck the tomb of Theron, which was of extraordinary size and magnificence. The occurrence checked all further violation; and as the present sepulchre was the only structure of the kind remaining, it received the appellation it now bears, though without a shadow of probability. It is neither large in size, nor in a good style of architecture; and therefore entirely disagrees with the description of Diodorus*. It is of a pyra-

* Diodorus speaks of the sepulchral monument as "monumentum magnificæ structuræ, ac molis opus.

midal shape, and two stories yet remain. The base is rustic; and the first story of the Ionic order, with two fluted columns, at each angle; between which, in each front, was a blank window, also pyramidal in shape. Above is a Doric frieze, with seven triglyphs. Such a mixture of various orders could not have been a production of the age in question, when the purest Doric alone seems to have been adopted. The size is very moderate. D'Orville and Biscaris, from its square form, seem to think that it was erected in honour of some horse, which gained the prize at the Olympic games.

At the distance of a mile from the *Porta di Mare*, in the plain, without the walls of the city, are the remains of another temple, ascribed to Æsculapius. It differs from those before mentioned; for it was ornamented with twelve half columns on each side, and pilasters at the angles, besides four columns in front. Of these, two columns and one pilaster, of the western side, remain, together with the steps and staircase of the cell. In this temple was preserved the celebrated image of Apollo, in the thigh of which the name of Myro, the sculptor, was inserted, in letters of silver. This image was transported to Carthage; but afterwards restored to the Agrigentines, on the capture of that city by Scipio Africanus.

This edifice, and the tomb before mentioned, are the only monuments of antiquity which I noticed without the walls of the city.

I have before observed, that the ancient gate, leading to the Emporium, was immediately under the temple of Hercules, of which only a part of a single column remains standing. At a very small distance, and on the other side of the road, was the magnificent and colossal temple of Jupiter. Of this edifice Diodorus gives the following description:—

"The construction of the temples of the Agrigentines proves the magnificence of the people in those times. During the frequent sieges of the city, the greater part of the other temples were burnt or levelled to the ground; yet they were again restored; but the total destruction of the city prevented the completion of the temple of Jupiter. This temple is three hundred and forty Greek feet in length, sixty in width, and one hundred and twenty in height. It is the largest of all the temples in Sicily, and may be compared with the finest of any country; for, notwithstanding it was never finished, the design appears complete. As the other temples are supported by the walls or columns, two different species of architecture are combined in this: for from space to

space, projecting pillars, in the shape of rounded columns, are placed, both within and without, forming square pilasters. Without, the circumference of each column is twenty feet; and they are so deeply fluted, that a man may place himself between each fluting. The pilasters within are twelve feet broad. The doors are very remarkable, both for beauty and height. On the eastern front is a sculpture, representing a combat of giants; which is admirable for the size and elegance of the figures. On the western is the capture of Troy, in which each hero is distinguished by the peculiarity of his dress and arms."

Such is the account left us of this magnificent structure in its pristine state. There is, however, an evident mistake in regard to the dimensions, the height being apparently mistaken for the breadth; for according to the rules of architectural proportion, the breadth should be one hundred and twenty, and the elevation sixty feet. At present nothing remains of this astonishing building, but vast masses of stone scattered on the ground. Two of the capitals, with the fluted parts of the columns to which they were united, are still visible; and though surmounting only semi-columns, are of such magnitude as to be divided into two parts. I observed also some triglyphs, which shew the edifice to have been of

the Doric order. Not a single remnant of the sculptures, described by the historian, remains; all is ruin and confusion: though this temple was of larger proportions than that of Selinunte, the remains of the latter are much more striking and picturesque; and the building itself, being ornamented with insulated columns, must have been much more light and elegant.

Not far from the temple of Jupiter was that of Castor and Pollux, of the Doric order; and supposed to have been of the same proportions as the temple of Concord, Juno Lucina, &c. Nothing remains but some scattered fragments. Near this ruin is a portion of the ancient wall, in good preservation.

Farther on was the celebrated temple of Vulcan, likewise of the Doric order, with fourteen columns on the sides, and six in front. The first step, however, differs from the others; having a diamond-like projection cut in the centre of the stone. Two columns only remain standing, and these much injured by time; the rest are entirely destroyed or removed.

Under this temple, and on the opposite side of the river Agragas, which flows in the valley be-

neath, was a spring, on the surface of which a floating oil was observed. It is now called *Lago Oleoso*. Near the temple of Castor and Pollux, also in the bottom, are seen the traces of the celebrated lake, which was excavated by human labour. According to Diodorus, its circumference was seven stadia, and its depth twenty cubits. It is said to have been stocked with all sorts of fish, for the public feasts, and the surface of the water was enlivened by numerous swans, and other aquatic fowl. Not far distant, in the valley of St. Leonardo, are several of the *cloaca*, or aqueducts, which are ascribed to Phœax, the architect. These, together with the lake, and the magnificent temples of Agrigentum, were in a great measure the work of the numerous captives taken from the Carthaginians in the battle of Himera, where Gelon gained a complete victory over Hamilcar. So great, indeed, was the number of prisoners, that, according to Diodorus, many of the private citizens of Agrigentum received each five hundred as their share, and it was said that Lybia was become captive.

Not far from the temple of Vulcan is a circular hill, still retaining the name of *La Meta*, which is supposed to have been the place appropriated to the games of the circus. Near it is an elevation,

of an oval shape, surrounded with the remains of an ancient building, which is considered as the amphitheatre.

Adjoining the Convent of St. Nicolo, antiquaries have placed the site of the Forum and Theatre. Here are to be seen numerous mutilated columns of various dimensions, but generally inferior in size to those of the temples; and several remnants of antique buildings are found in the walls, dividing the modern tenements. In the garden of the convent is also an ancient building, in good preservation, which is considered as the private chapel of some great palace. It is of the Doric order, as appears from the pilasters at the angles, and several beads in the architrave, belonging to triglyphs, now destroyed. In the eastern front was the entrance door, which is now stopped up by the altar of a modern chapel. The western front has been spoiled by a Gothic door-way and steps.

Beneath St. Nicolo are supposed to have been the baths; which were probably a Roman work, as several pieces of a circular Corinthian cornice, richly wrought, are seen near the spring which supplies the water.

Above the bridge, before described as forming the communication between Agrigentum and *Agri-*

gentinum in Camico, was the Temple of *Pudicitia*, or Modesty. But no other traces of this structure remain, except some parts of the steps toward the south, and a portion of the *terreno piano*.

Near the temple of Ceres and Proserpine, on the *Rupis Athenæa*, were the quarries from whence the stone employed in the several structures was drawn. Here is also a very long subterraneous cavern; but for what purpose it was intended is unknown. The stone of this country in general appears to be a petrifaction of sea sand, intermingled with marine shells, harder than the substance in which they are compacted. When first dug from the quarry it is soft, but hardens on exposure to the air. I observed that the sides of the columns facing the south have suffered from the action of the sea breeze.

The antiquities which remain to be noticed, are those extant in the modern city. One of these has been the subject of universal admiration, as the meaning of the sculpture, with which it is decorated, has been a matter of almost universal controversy. This is the marble sarcophagus, now used as the baptismal font of the cathedral. One front represents a number of men, with dogs, horses, &c. preparing themselves for the chase. On the opposite side is the chase of the wild boar.

At one end, a young man thrown from his chariot, the horses terrified and running in different directions. One figure is endeavouring to stop them, while above is the representation of a monster, whose apparition seems to have caused the accident. At the other end, the figures are all female. One is fainting, and the others endeavouring to soothe her with musical instruments, &c. Some have considered these sculptures as indicating the story of Phintias, the tyrant of Agrigentum, who was wounded by a wild boar in Africa. Others refer them to the story of Phædra and Hyppolitus; and I think with more probability, from the figure of the sea monster, which is introduced in the representation of the accident. Here is another sarcophagus, with basso relievos, of later date, and less beautiful sculpture; and a third, with no other ornament than a gilt border.

In this church is a curious peculiarity. The voice of a person speaking, even in a low tone, at one end, is distinctly heard at the other. The discovery of this phænomenon is said to have been made by a man, who was accidentally employed near the high altar, and from thence heard the whole discourse of some one, in the act of confession, at the other extremity of the church. In the Segreteria, above stairs, is a large Græco-Siculo vase, with figures, supposed to indicate the descent

of Ulysses into the infernal regions, and his conference with Tiresias. The library, built and founded by Monsignor Lucchesi, a bishop of Girgenti, is a handsome room; and contains a collection of medals, and a few antique idols. I did not see the two golden cups and pateras, on which the figures of six oxen are embossed. These were found about eighteen miles distant from the city, in a district called *La Terra di St. Angelo.*

The Canonico Spoco, to whom I was recommended, and who received me with the hospitality of a Gellias, possesses two fine and capacious Græco-Siculo vases; and two small and curious lacrymatoria, of a transparent bluish substance. The number of these sepulchral vases, found in the various tombs round the site of the ancient Girgenti, is very considerable. They are ornamented with various figures on black and yellow grounds, and are of the kind generally termed Etruscan. I purchased three, one of which was very perfect, and represented the sacrifice to Hecuba.

The circuit of the five parts, composing the ancient city, amounted to ten miles. The present city, which is the see of an archbishop, is very commodiously built on the declivity of the *Mons Camicus;* and the seminary stands nearly on the

same spot as the fortress built by Dædalus. Those who inhabit the upper regions suffer some inconvenience from the steepness and difficulty of the ascent; but the disadvantage is counterbalanced by the purity of the air, and a delicious prospect, comprising in a single glance the greater part of the ancient city, with all its beautiful temples, emporium, &c. &c.

The present port, which is four miles distant from the city, and in a manner hidden by impending hills, is the greatest *caricatore* of corn in the whole island. Nature has bestowed on it a very singular species of stone, in appearance like potter's clay, which has the property of preserving corn for a long period. The grain is deposited in artificial caverns, hollowed in the rock, of a pyramidal shape, and open at the top to the air. In process of time a crust of saline particles is formed on the interior surface of the cavity, to which this useful property is ascribed. But whatever may be the cause, the effect is no less extraordinary than advantageous. One of these caverns, which had been covered near thirty years, fell in by accident, and the grain deposited within was found in perfect preservation. It still bears the name of *Fossa della trovata.*

All these caverns, or, as they are called, ditches,

belong to the king. The proprietors of corn have the liberty of depositing it in these receptacles, without paying any duty; and the profit of the king is derived from the increase of bulk, and consequently of measure, which takes place while the grain lies in these singular magazines.

Having thus described the objects of interest which Girgenti displays to the historian and antiquary, I shall now advert to the attractions it offers to the painter.

Of the eleven temples, which still exist in different stages of dilapidation, those of Concord, Juno Lucina, Hercules, Jupiter, and Vulcan, are the only remains which present forms adapted to the pencil. The picturesque points of view, in which the two first are seen, are too numerous to be described or specified; being situated on eminences, well clothed with wood, and surrounded with ground infinitely varied, they exhibit at every step new scenes, and new pictures. As they are also built on the same ridge of hills, most of the views comprise them both. The first, from its shape, size, and perfect preservation, is equally noble and majestic. The latter, rising on the verge of a rugged precipice, and broken and irregular in its architecture, forms a striking contrast with the elegant regularity of the former. The temples of

Vulcan and Hercules, having fewer columns standing, afford less variety; but the situation of each is fine. That of Vulcan, in particular, commands a delightful view of all the other temples, and forms one of the most beautiful landscapes I have ever beheld. The colossal ruins of the temple of Jupiter offer but few picturesque scenes; there are vast masses of stone, but as few remains of the ornamental parts of architecture now exist, the landscape is rendered too uniform to be pleasing.

Hitherto I have visited no spot so well adapted to afford scope to the pencil; by uniting the beauties of landscape with the elegancies of art, the ruins seem as if designedly placed on the eminences to form the subject of a picture, or to serve as the ornaments of a villa. The remains of Selinunte are more majestic, and the temple of Segeste grander in its proportions, and as well preserved as that of Concord; but they are situated on a barren surface, and want the charm derived from an intermixture of foliage. Apart from any other object to divert the attention of the spectator, they appear more gigantic, and perhaps to greater advantage; while those of Girgenti combine an almost inexhaustible variety of natural beauties and artificial elegancies, which awaken more admiration and delight, the more they are contemplated. I may say with Fazellus:—

"Sæpe ipse adii loca illa amplissima; sæpe tanto spectaculo intentus pæne obstupui: non modo ob tantæ amplitudinis, magnificentiæque miraculum; sed ob tam efficacem temporis edacitatem, fortunæque invidiam, quæ omnia tam mirifice comminuerunt. Nec fieri potuit ut postquam singula oculis animoque lustravi, mæniaque olim magnificè structa, et splendidissimè exornata, nunc verò longè latèque dispersa, ac templorum præsertim deploranda, et ea monstruosa cadavera, aliorumque ingentes priscorum operum, ruinas mirabundus revisi, absque repetitis geminatisque suspiriis inde uhquam discederem. Venit enim mihi tum non temerè in mentem, tantorum heroum, primatum, viroruinque illustrium, quorum commemoratione non urbem unam; sed totum terrarum orbem dicas resplenduisse prudentia, humanitate, eruditione, militia, splendore."

I have seen few spots so well fortified by nature. The country is broken into various hills, most of which terminate, on every side, in lofty and precipitous rocks. These sites were selected by the Agregentines, and the fortifications of art being added to those of nature, the city became at the same time strong and irregular.

JOURNAL OF A TOUR FROM GIRGENTI TO ALICATA, MODICA, NOTO, SYRACUSE, AND CATANIA.

FRIDAY, March 26. After spending nine days within the cloistered walls at Girgenti, I took leave of my hospitable and reverend fathers, and continued my journey to Alicata. I proceeded by the Convent of St. Nicolo to the *Porta di Mare*, and then directed my course toward the sea coast, passing the rivers Ruscello and Hypsa. I had the satisfaction of casting a farewell glance on the beautiful temples of Juno, Concord, and Hercules. At this point the country loses its charms. It is no longer broken into gentle rising eminences, clothed with olive, carob, and almond trees; but the eye wanders over a wild, stony, and open district, with scarcely a tree to relieve the view, in the space between Girgenti and Palma. This last

petty town unites within its fruitful territory a more abundant share of natural beauties than I have hitherto seen during my tour in Sicily. On leaving an open and extensive district, rich in corn, I approached Palma, through an agreeable and fertile country, in the highest state of cultivation, abounding in grain, olives, almonds, pomegranates, fig and carob trees. The last grew in a singular form, the height not being considerable, but the branches spreading to a wide circumference, and resting on all sides on the ground. The pleasing variation of hill and dale, and a view of the sea caught at the distance of three miles, enhanced the beauty of the prospect, which is peculiarly rich and agreeable. The town is situated on the declivity of a hill, and being built of a whitish stone, exhibits an extremely neat appearance.

After dinner I proceeded to Alicata. Leaving the undulating and varied hills of Palma, I descended into an open and extensive plain, partly marshy and partly fine corn land. At Alicata I took up my lodging in the Convent of St. Francis. This town is generally supposed to be built on the site of the ancient Gela, though the want of decisive evidence has given rise to much controversy on the subject. The strongest proof is an inscription, in Greek characters, which is said to have been found in the vicinity, and in which the

Respublica Gelorum is mentioned*. This inscription was formerly preserved in the walls of the Castle; but is now to be seen on the left aisle of the temple belonging to the church of St. Angelo. It is inserted, with an explanation, in Pizolanti's "Memorie dell' antica Gela." I could discover no trace of any other piece of antiquity deserving attention. Alicata is partly situated on an eminence, and partly in the plain. The Castle, which is the residence of the governor, projects into the sea, and forms on the right a small port, where are the magazines and *caricatore*. The adjacent plains are well cultivated, and very fertile in corn. My convent commanded a fine view of the vicinity.

Saturday, March 27. Left Alicata, and crossed the *Fiume Salso*, by a ferry close to the town. The sources of this river lie in the mountains called the Madonie. Formerly it bore the name of *Hymera Meridionalis*, to distinguish it from another river,

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* This inscription, accompanied by a long comment and translation, is recorded by Castellus, in his "Collectio veterum inscriptionum Siciliæ," printed at Palermo, 1784.—The stone bearing the inscription was dug up in the year 1660, in a mountain adjoining the city of Alicata, and taken to the citadel for security. It specified a decree of the Republic of Gela in praise of Heraclides the son of Zopyrus, with the honours of a crown of olives, &c.—*Castellus*, p. 85, 6, 7.

which emptied itself into the sea near the ancient city of Hymera, not far distant from Termine. The *Fiume Salso* is the largest river I have yet seen in Sicily. Its more ancient, or at least poetical, appellation is supposed to be Gela, from which the city derived its title:—

Immanisque Gela fluvii cognomine dicta.
Et te vorticibus non adeunde Gela.

From hence to Terranova, the greater part of the road skirts the sea beach. On the right is the Mediterranean; and on the left high sand-banks and uncultivated lands, which intercept all view of the country. In five hours and a half I finished my journey, and was hospitably received by the secretary of the Duke of Monteleone, who is governor of the place. On approaching the town, I passed through extensive plantations of fig trees.

Terranova is pleasantly situated on an eminence, overlooking on one side the sea, and on the other a great extent of most fertile and highly-cultivated plains. Cluverius has here placed the site of the ancient Gela. Though he has no decisive proof for this opinion, it must be confessed that Terranova may boast more relics of antiquity than Alicata. At a short distance from the eastern

gate of the town is a fine column of the Doric order, which probably once belonged to a temple, as its companions may perhaps be buried in the sands. It consists of five stones and the capital. The last is still standing upright on its base; and measures, in circumference, between sixteen and seventeen feet. The diameter of the second piece is above four feet; the flutings in breadth ten inches; and the summit of the capital twenty-two feet in circumference. The sand having been cleared away, the steps are visible. Cluverius is mistaken in representing it as of the Corinthian order. He says, "Ipse egomet columnam, ibi erectam vidi, Corinthiaci operis, et ingentis magnitudinis, cum epystilio amplissimo." Many Græco-Siculo vases have also recently been discovered in the sepulchres on the western side of the city, some of which are of a very fine clay, well varnished, and beautiful design: several have lately been found by the Marchese Mallia, on one of which are two charming figures, representing Mercury and Minerva. On the top of this vase was a small sepulchral lamp, which it was perhaps a custom to light in honour of the dead. In another an ostrich's egg was deposited. Various Sicilian coins are also daily discovered. I saw a large and fine vase, belonging to an individual of the town, with a Greek inscription. On one side was the word καλος, and three female figures

standing before a bath. On the other, an altar with some characters, which I could not decypher. Nothing could tempt the inhabitants to part with these relics of antiquity, of which they are laudably proud.

I will not enter into the controversy respecting the true site of the ancient Gela, nor have I time to collect the various historical facts which might be adduced to elucidate this contested point. I shall only observe, that, from the evident remains of a fine Doric temple, and the number of coins and other antiquities found in this neighbourhood, as well as the beauty of the Græco-Siculo vases, Terranova must certainly be placed on the spot once occupied by a flourishing city. Possibly, of the two towns of Alicata and Terranova, one may have been built on the site of Gela, and the other on that of Phintia, founded by Phintias, tyrant of Agrigentum, as appears from the testimony of Diodorus:—

"Phintias urbem condidit, nomine Phintiadem, Gelensesque, e patriâ submotos, in ea collocat. Sita autem hæc est ad mare. Muris enim domibusque Gelæ destructis populum in Phintiadem transtulit: postquam mœnia forumque insigne ac templa Deorum condiderat A. U. R. 471, ante Christum 282.

Sunday, March 28. Left Terranova, and pursuing my route along the shore, I crossed several *foggie*, or channels, into which the sea flows, and which are sometimes dangerous. Afterwards I quitted the coast, and turned to the left into the interior of the country, because the late heavy rains had stopped the nearest passage. For some way I journeyed through a wild and uncultivated district, abounding in various shrubs, particularly the rosemary and cistus, with a lake on the right hand. I then descended into a plain, where I found a bad passage over a river. The country now became more cultivated; and I traversed a plain shaded with aged cork trees, of rude and uncouth forms. The territory of Vittoria, into which I entered, produced olives, carobs, and vines in abundance; and carries on a great trade to Malta.

The town of Vittoria is comparatively modern, having been built only two centuries, and therefore offers no allurement to the antiquary. It forms a part of the *Contea di Modica*. I was hospitably received by the secretary, D. Santo Giudice, to whom I carried a letter of recommendation. At Comiso, four miles distant from Vittoria, where a copious spring rises in the midst of the town, Fazellus places the fountain of Diana.

"Dianæ ad Yhomisium oppidum fons est, qui Camarinam influit, cujus siquis olim aqua, manibus non castis vinum diluisset, nulla consequebatur mixtio."

Cluverius, however, places the *Fons Dianæ* near Santa Croce.

Monday, March 29. Left Vittoria; and in order to reach Modica, I was obliged to make a considerable circuit, and traverse the river over a bridge, the ford not being passable. Between Vittoria and Santa Croce I crossed one deep stream. Nothing can be more dreary than the aspect of the whole country from Santa Croce to Modica. The soil is so stony as almost to preclude vegetation; the fields are enclosed with stone walls; and on the right, the eye wanders over a flat and uninteresting coast. The only agreeable view was in a valley, seven miles distant from Modica. Here is a bridge, bearing the date 1550, consisting of a single, bold, and well-turned arch. A rapid river, a few noble trees, and some luxuriant oleanders rising out of the bed of the stream, composed, with the bridge, a pleasing landscape, which appeared to more advantage by a contrast with the dreary district I had traversed. The stream produces some delicious trout. It is called *Fiume di Ragusa*; and by Cluverius is sup-

posed to be the Herminius. Owing to the length of the journey, and the badness of the roads, I did not reach Modica till dark. I was recommended to D. Gul. Montalbano, the secretary of the city, who received me into his house.

Tuesday, March 30. The badness of the morning confined me at home. In the evening I ascended a neighbouring mountain to a hermitage called Monserrato, which commands the best view of the town. Nothing, indeed, can be more singular than its situation. It is built on the declivity of an irregular mountain, which is intersected by numerous vallies, or ravines. Modica is of considerable extent, and though its population is now much diminished, it still contains twenty thousand souls. It is the capital of the Contea, which is endowed with great privileges. The churches of St. Giorgio and St. Pietro are handsome buildings. The approach to the latter is good, by a long flight of steps, adorned with statues of the twelve apostles. In the town are many respectable private houses; but carriages are here useless, because the two principal, and only level, streets are washed by rivers. In fact, it is the only place I have hitherto found, where it is impossible to walk, ride, or be conveyed with ease and comfort.

From the window of my apartment the appearance of the city was truly striking. A series of irregular mountains, covered half-way up with buildings; above, gardens of fruit trees, India figs, &c.; and still higher naked rocks, presented a fanciful scene, resembling the Præsepia, which, in this country, are usually exhibited at the festival of Christmas. Cluverius mentions it under the title of Motyca, or Mutyca; but from the slight notice it has obtained in history, it was a city of little consequence. To the same cause we may, perhaps, ascribe its barrenness with regard to antiquities.

Wednesday, March 31. The account given by some late authors of the valley of Ispica, and its singular antiquities, tempted me to visit the spot. This valley begins about five miles from Modica, and stretches towards Spaccafurno, in the direction of north and south. To reach it I was obliged to travel over the vilest road imaginable. From this region of stones I descended into a narrow valley, tolerably fertile, bearing corn, and abounding with walnut trees in the most flourishing state. The singularity of the valley consists in the traces it displays of the habitations of a numerous people, whose era, and even whose very existence, has escaped the attention of history.

These dwellings form different stories, excavated in the rocks on each side the valley; some at so considerable a height, as to be accessible only by ladders, or by a connexion with the lower story. Of such communications a perfect specimen exists in the rock called *Castello d'Ispica.* It is formed by a circular funnel, or aperture, cut through the rock, with holes on each side for the feet. The northern extremity of the valley, where I began my researches, seems to have been wholly appropriated to sepulchral vaults. At the entrance is a large excavation of this kind, to the right, called *La Spezeria;* and another, called *Larderia,* to the left. This last consists of a body and aisles, of which the body is the longest, with sepulchral niches, formed in the sides and pavement. The sepulchres continue for a considerable space, and of different dimensions: probably each family had its separate burial place.

I found various inscriptions in Greek characters, of which I copied eight; and which, from the diversity in the form of the letters, I imagine to belong to different æra*.

* These curious caverns are thus described by Castellus, p. 259: "Ispicæ Cryptæ, quæ extant in quadam profunda valle prope Motycam civitatem, admirandum sunt vetustatis opus; cernuntur enim subterraneis in rupibus excavatæ

Castellus, in his collection, before cited, of inscriptions relating to Sicily, has given six of those existing in the valley of Ispica; all of which, with the addition of two others, I myself copied. The numbers of those printed in his work are XI. XII. XXIII. LVII, LXVII, LXVIII. As a specimen of the orthography I have selected No. XI. and XII. from his collection, as follow:—

In a crypt, called *La Signora*, are the two following inscriptions, in rude Greek characters.

NO. XI.

ΑΝΤΩΝΙ	*Antonios*
ΟΣ ΕΥΠΥ	*Eupyctus*
ΚΤΟΣ ΕΝΘΑ	*hic jacet.*
ΔΕ ΚΙΤΕ ΕΤΕ	*Mortuus est*
ΛΕΥΤΗΣ	*Mensis Julii*
ΜΗΝΙ ΙΟΥ	*post Kalendas*
ΑΠΟ ΚΑΚΓ	XXIII (*die.*)

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innumeræ ferè ædes, concamerationes, et cellæ; ita ut absconditam quamdam civitatem ibi extructam fuisse videatur." The same learned author, from the bad sculpture of the characters, attributes them to the Christian æra. "Scripturæ genus inelegantèr concinnatum, et a rudibus lapicidis exaratum ætatem reddet sæculi Aer. Christ. aut quinti, aut sexti, aut septimi, et forsan etiam octavi, quo tempore Græci idiomatis usus in Sicilià ad barbariem vergebat."

NO. XII.

ΑΝΤΩΝΙΟΣ ΕΑ	*Antonius*
ΤΥΟΝΙΑΟΣ ΕΝΘΑ	*Satyonilus*
ΔΕ ΚΙΤΕ ΕΚΟΙ	*hic jacet.*
ΜΙΗΘΙΙ Μ ΔΕΚ	*defunctus est*
ΑΙΙΟ ΚΑΛ Ζ	*Mensis Decembris post Kalendas* VII. (*die.*)

On the left are two grottos, called *Grotto del Corvo*, and *Grotto del Vento*. In the former nine steps still exist, which led to an upper story, and some rings cut in the rock. In the latter are two deep ditches, of a pyramidical form, cut in the pavement, but now stopped up. Proceeding up the valley, the sepulchral vaults appear to cease, and the habitations to increase, particularly on the left side. The valley branches off to the right, and the habitations are still continued.

The object most worthy of attention is the Castle, before mentioned, which is situated on the right side of the valley, about two miles from the entrance. The ascent is by a flight of steps, still preserved. It leads to a platform, from whence was an entrance into the habitation. Several rooms are visible, and the approach is through a low arched passage. The situation, in point of strength, is far preferable to that of the other dwellings; it is much more extensive, and com

mands a fine view of the valley beneath. Through the bottom of the valley ran a rapid stream, which, though dried up in summer, now formed various cascades, and added charms to the novel and picturesque appearance of this secluded spot. I was informed that these habitations might be traced as far as Favara, near Spaccafurno.

As no mention is made of this singular place by ancient authors, I do not ascribe to it any remote antiquity. Perhaps it may have been the asylum of the Greeks, during their wars with the Saracens; or, possibly, it may be dated a century or two earlier. The situation and form of these dwellings prove that they were chosen for security, not for comfort; that they were the abode of a distressed, not a flourishing, people. I saw several fragments of black and red vases, and one old Christian altar-piece; but I could not hear that any of the painted Græco-Siculo vases had ever been discovered here. The guide, who conducted me from Modica, was the proprietor of the ground at the entrance of the valley. His cottage was the first on the left hand, and formed out of one of the antique caverns, at a time when *domus antra fuere*. Being overhung with Indian figs, and other plants, it presented a picturesque appearance; and in another cavern beneath was a spring of pure and cold water.

After regaling myself with some fresh cards, and some delicious walnuts, the produce of the valley, I mounted my horse, and returned to Modica by another road, no less stony than the former.

Thursday, April 1. Had I not ordered my horses to be ready without the knowledge of my host, his kindness would have compelled me to make a longer stay. From Modica I proceeded towards Noto. The first part of the road, as is generally the case throughout the Contea, was rough and stony. Indeed, I believe I may assert, that such another district does not exist: it may be called the region of stones. The fields, though bearing corn, are enclosed with stone walls, and present no picturesque views. As I advanced, the country became less cultivated, though it abounded with olives and carobs. I crossed a rapid and deepish river, called Tellaro, the Elorus of antiquity. Afterwards I came to some difficult passes, owing to the depth of the clay. The whole country was almost destitute of habitations. The first appearance of Noto and its territory was equally striking and agreeable. After so dreary and cheerless a journey, it seemed like the garden of Eden. Having a letter to the Regente of the Padri Conventuali di St. Francesco, I fixed on

their convent as my abode, and was received with the usual Sicilian hospitality.

Friday, April 2. In the morning the wind and rain were so violent, that I could not venture out of the town; I therefore employed a part of it in examining a small museum, belonging to Cavaliere Astuto, consisting of basso relievos, statues, vases, &c. But his medals, particularly the Sicilian, are most worthy of notice, from their number and fine preservation. He is fitting up several rooms, in a good taste, for the reception of these curiosities. The evening was better spent than the morning. I accompanied some friends to the Dominican church, where a meeting of the academy was held. An oration was first pronounced by a Cavaliere; and then the different members recited sonnets, and pieces of poetry. Before we broke up, I was so strongly urged to become one of the society, that I accepted the patent. Two hours and a half after sunset, we felt a smart shock of an earthquake.

Saturday, April 3. At last the weather permitted me to visit a curious relic of antiquity, near the sea shore, about five miles from Noto. It is a circular column, constructed with large stones, and rising to a considerable height. It is generally

supposed to have been erected by the Syracusans, after the defeat of the Athenians under Nicias and Demosthenes.

At a short distance from this trophy, and not far from the river Elorus, which here falls into the sea, was the site of the celebrated city and castle of Helorum, mentioned, as well as the river, by many classic writers. Virgil after describing the voyage of Æneas on the coast of Sicily, and adverting to Syracuse, adds,

> . . . . . Et inde
> Exupero præpingue solum stagnantis Helori.

Silius, his imitator, says,

> Sidonia, et Drepane atque undæ clamosus Helorus.

The character of the river, watering a low plain, and subject to frequent inundations, still merits the epithet *stagnans*.

Fazellus mentions many remains, existing in his time, of the city of Helorum, and also of the *Piscina*, recorded by Pliny; but these traces are at present obliterated. From this city a road, called the *Via Elorina*, led to Syracuse.

In my return to Noto, I visited an antique building, called *La Pittoruta*, which exhibits a

singular peculiarity of construction. It is composed of massive stones, square without, and forming a dome within, great part of which still exists. From the traces of paintings yet remaining on the walls of the dome, this structure has evidently been converted to the uses of Christian worship.

Sunday, April 4. I had fixed this morning for my departure, but was again detained by heavy rain. I consoled myself with the reflection, that I had quitted the dreary regions of Modica before the commencement of the rains, and had fixed my residence in the neatest and best city I had found since I quitted Palermo, where I could enjoy a good society of friends.

The original name of Noto was Neas, or Neatum; and it was built and inhabited by the Siculi. Its first situation was on an eminence, difficult of access; but afterwards, according to the testimony of Diodorus, it was removed into a more level ground, by Ducetius, king of the Siculi.

"Ducetius Siculorum princeps, ex publico Siculorum ærario, magnis instructus opibus, Neas quæ patria ejus erat, in æquum et apertum campum transtulit," &c.

After the dreadful earthquake of 1693, which totally destroyed the city, the inhabitants removed five or six miles nearer the sea; which is now between three and four miles distant. So recent a foundation accounts for its neat and handsome appearance; but the architecture of many buildings, particularly that of the churches, convents, and of the Crociferi, seems to have been designed on too magnificent and expensive a scale for a provincial town; and of course many are left unfinished. From the surprising number of monasteries and convents, it appears to be the land of chastity and solitary retirement. The upper town commands a fine view. Its territory is pleasing; the hills are agreeably varied; wood is not wanting; and the river Falconara, formerly Asinarus, flows under the walls. It gives the name of *Val di Noto* to one of the three vallies, with which Sicily is intersected.

Monday, April 5. The weather at last permitted me to take leave of my friends at Noto, and I proceeded to Syracuse I passed through Avola, a modern-built town, with regular streets and low houses. It belongs to the Duke of Monteleone, who possesses some sugar plantations in the vicinity. This valuable plant was originally cultivated in Sicily; and afterwards introduced into America, the West Indies, &c. The territory

of Avola bears corn, olives, vines, and a variety of fruit trees; and is within a short distance of the sea. Leaving Avola, I traversed an open stony country, and passed the Cassibili, formerly Cacyparis. Near this stream, Conte Gaetani, of Syracuse, discovered an antique building, supposed to have been a bath; in which he found a fine basso relievo, and a female bust. These were sent to Court; but orders were given to discontinue the search, and fill up the excavation. I proceeded through a flat country, having the temple of Jupiter Olympus on my left; crossed the river Anapus, and the marshes; and turning to the right of Syracuse, took up my lodging in the Capucin convent, at some distance from that place; that I might at once avoid the restraints of a fortified town, and be nearer the ruins of the old city. My residence, however, partook of the character of a fortress; for I entered by a drawbridge, and observed a swivel gun, mounted on a small battery.

Sunday, April 11. Before I describe the present state of Syracuse, I shall cast a retrospective glance on its origin and former magnificence. The first inhabitants of this spot, recorded in history, were the Siculi; who were conquered and expelled by Archias, one of the Heraclidæ, and the founder of Syracuse. Of its origin, Thucydides gives the following account:—

" Græcorum primi Chalcidenses, ex Eubœâ navigantes cum Theocle, coloniæ deductore, Naxum condidêre. Insequenti anno Archias, unus ex Heraclidis, e Corintho profectus, Syracusas condidit; expulsis priùs Siculis ex insulâ in quâ jam non amplius mari circumflexa urbs interior sita est. Postea verò temporis et ea quæ extra insulam est, addito muro, incolis frequentari cæpta."

Syracuse was, therefore, founded in the second year of the eleventh Olympiad, and four hundred and forty-nine years after the capture of Troy. Strabo has recorded an anecdote relative to its origin :—

" Syracusas condidit Archias classe Corintho advectus, sub idem tempus quo Naxus et Megara sunt conditæ. Ferunt autem unà Delphos advenisse Miscellum et Archiam, oraculum consulendi gratiâ, interrogatosque eos a Deo, divitias mallent, an sanitatem ; Archiam opes sibi optasse ; sanitatem Miscellum; deumque illi, ut Syracusas, huic, ut Crotonem conderet, mandasse: atque Crotoniensibus evenisse, uti tam salubrem incolerent urbem : Syracusanos vero eò opulentiæ progressos ut de iis etiam vulgatum sit proverbium, quod in nimis sumptuosos diceretur, eos non possidere decimam Syracusanorum. Cæterò Archiam, quum in Siciliam navigaret, et ad Zephyrium Promon-

torium adpulisset, incidissetque in Doriensium quosdam qui e Siciliâ eo se contulerant digressi ab his qui Megara condiderant, adjunxisse sibi eos: indeque profectum communi cum iis opera, Syracusas condidisse."

After this explicit testimony, nothing need be added respecting the foundation of Syracuse. On its state and magnificence, in the height of prosperity, I shall quote the words of Cicero, in his oration against Verres :—

" Urbem Syracusas maximam esse Græcarum urbium, pulcherrimamque omnium, sæpe audistis. Est, judices, ità ut dicitur, nam et situ est cùm munito, tùm ex omni aditu, vel terrâ vel mari, præclaro ad aspectum: et portus habet propè in edificatione adspectuque urbis inclusos, qui quum diversos inter se aditus habeant, in exitu conjunguntur et confluunt. Eorum conjunctione pars oppidi quæ adpellatur Insula, mari disjuncta angusto, ponte rursum adjungitur et continetur.

" Ea tanta est urbs, ut ex quatuor urbibus maximis constare dicatur, quarum una est ea quam dixi Insula, quæ duobus portubus cincta, in utrinsque portus ostium aditumque projecta est, in quâ domus est, quæ regia Hieronis fuit, quâ prætores uti solent. In ea sunt ædes sacræ complures: sed

duæ quæ longè cæteris antecellunt: Dianæ una, et altera, quæ fuit ante istius adventum ornatissima, Minervæ. In hac Insulâ extremâ est fons aquæ dulcis, cui nomen Arethusæ est, incredibili magnitudine, plenissimus piscium, qui fluctu totus operiretur, nisi munitione ac mole lapidum a mari disjunctus esset. Altera autem est urbs Syracusis, cui nomen Acradina est, in quâ forum maximum, pulcherrimæ porticus, ornatissimum Prytaneum, amplissima est curia, templumque egregium Jovis Olympii. Cæteræque urbis partes, una latâ viâ perpetuâ, multisque transversis divisæ privatis ædificiis continentur. Tertia est urbs, quæ quod in eâ parte Fortunæ fanum antiquum fuit, Tyche nominata est; in qua Gymnasium amplissimum est, et complures ædes sacræ; coliturque ea pars et habitatur frequentissimè. Quarta, autem, est urbs, quæ quia postrema ædificata est, Neapolis nominatur, quam ad summam theatrum est maximum; præterea, duo templa sunt egregia: Cereris, alterum, alterum Liberæ; signumque Apollinis, qui Temenites vocatur, pulcherrimum et maximum.

Such was the state of the ancient Syracuse. It was furnished by nature with capacious and noble ports, a rich and fertile territory, and every advantage of local situation. By art it was embellished by works of the most exquisite taste and perfection, in architecture, sculpture, and painting; while com-

merce and extent of territory diffused such wealth among its citizens, as to render their affluence proverbial.

It would be tedious to relate, even concisely, the many vicissitudes which this city underwent during the reigns of the several tyrants, Gelo, Hiero, Thrasybulus, the two Dionysiusses, Dion, Agathocles, Pyrrhus, Hiero, and Hieronymus; its civil wars; and the vigorous contests in which it successively engaged with the Athenians, Carthaginians, and Romans. After a long period of prosperity, affluence, and glory, and after a struggle almost unexampled*, it was finally reduced in the year 214 by the Roman general Marcellus; who, on entering the walls, and reflecting on its past magnificence and fallen state, is said to have burst into tears. This fact is thus commemorated by Livy.

"Marcellus ut mœnia ingressus, ex superioribus locis urbem omnium fermè illâ tempestate pulcherrimam, subjectam oculis vidit, illacrymasse dicitur, partim gaudio tantæ pèrpetratæ rei, partim

* The memorable siege and capture of Syracuse are well described by Polybius; b. viii. extract iii. p. 129, *Hampton's Polybius*, 8vo.

vetustâ gloriâ urbis. Atheniensium classes demersæ, et duo ingentes exercitus, cum duobus clarissimis ducibus deleti occurrebant, et tot bella cum Carthaginiensibus, tanto cum discrimine gesta, tot ac tam opulenti tyranni regesque."

The power and consequence of this famous city may be estimated from its extent: the circumference of the walls is computed by Strabo to be one hundred and eighty stadia, or about twenty-two English miles. Indeed, we may justly assent to the observation of Florus, that all Sicily was conquered in Syracuse.

"Sicilia mandata Marcello, nec diù restitit: tota enim Insula in unâ urbe superata est. Grande illud, et antè id tempus invictum caput Syracusæ quamvis Archimedis ingenio defenderentur, aliquando cesserunt. Longè non illi triplex murus totidemque arces, portus ille marmoreus, et fons celebratus Arethusæ, nisi quod hactenus profuêre: ut pulchritudini victæ urbis parceretur."

On approaching the walls of Syracuse, the traveller, who calls to mind the rank which this once splendid city occupies in the page of history, and who has raised his expectations with the prospect of surveying the remains of those structures, so

warmly depicted by Diodorus, Cicero, and other classic authors, may, like Marcellus, shed a tear of disappointment over its fallen state, and execrate those barbarous hands, which have left it little except a name. The ruins, still existing, are trifling; and offer but scanty gratification to those who have visited Segeste, Selinunte, and Agrigentum. By order of the sovereign, a certain sum of money is annually employed in repairing and exploring these remains. But the healing hand of the physician was applied too late: the malady was too far advanced, and the body too much debilitated, to arrest the progress of decay. Though the antiquities are few in number, they are scattered over so great an extent of ground as to require at least three days in visiting them. I shall, therefore, notice them in the same order as they occurred to my observations.

The first morning I visited the ancient Ortygia, now the modern Syracuse, surrounded with extensive fortifications, but unprovided either with soldiers or artillery. This quarter of the city was in former times esteemed the strongest, and best fortified; and consequently more fully inhabited, and chosen as an asylum, in times of danger or attack, from the several tyrants. On the eastern side was the smaller port, called *Marmoreus*; and on the western the greater port, forming a capacious

inland bay. Nearly opposite was a promontory stiled *Plemmyrium*, and a fort commanding the entrance of the harbour; which, during the famous battle with the Athenians, was blocked up with a chain of boats, linked together. This bay is mentioned by Virgil, under the name of *Sicanius sinus*:—

> Sicanio prætenta sinu jacet insula contra
> Plemmyrium undosum: nomen dixêre priores
> Ortygiam.

In this quarter of the city were two temples. That of Diana, from whom it is supposed to have received the name of Ortygia, was the most magnificent, as well as the most highly venerated. Two Doric columns and capitals, inserted in the walls of a private dwelling, in the *Via Salibra*, are considered as originally belonging to this edifice. The columns are of large proportions; and the bases of the capitals are ornamented with circles. From the accumulation of rubbish, during the lapse of so many centuries, the soil is so much raised, that the portion of the capitals which appears, does not exceed the height of a low apartment. In consequence of the vicinity of these columns, and the usual mode adopted in the Doric order, of diminishing the columns from the base upwards, it is highly probable, that these in question were so nearly joined at their base, as scarcely

to leave room for a person to pass between them. On sinking a well, or cistern, in the same house, the workmen cut away a considerable portion of one of these columns, conceiving it to be a natural rock, and did not discover their mistake till they had pierced through it.

The temple of Minerva, having been for several years used as the cathedral church, is in a tolerable state of preservation; though the simplicity of the antique, and particularly of the Doric order, is totally destroyed, and almost buried, in the over-charged ornaments of the Sicilian architecture. Still, however, it may be contemplated with pleasure, and the eye may readily discriminate the original features from the subsequent additions. On one side a long range of columns, with the architrave, and a portion of the frieze, with its triglyphs, are still visible. Within the church, also, the colonnades on each side are left, as well as those of the Pronaon and Posticon, which vary from the rest, being higher, and placed on bases, with a different moulding round the bottom of the capital. I was also informed, that the two centre columns of the Pronaon consist of entire blocks; though these, as well as the side colonnades, have been all whitened. The outside columns are composed of massive blocks, which are so well laid, that the junction is not distinguished without difficulty.

The cell of this temple was perfect; but it has been mutilated, and cut into a modern form.

On the summit of the temple was formerly placed a shield, sacred to the goddess, composed of brass, but cased with gold, and so large in its dimensions, that it could be easily distinguished by such as were sailing out at sea. Those who quitted the port, on losing sight of this shield, were accustomed to cast into the sea, in honour of Neptune and Minerva, an earthen *scyphus*, jug, or cup, filled with honey, frankincense, aromatics, and flowers, which had been previously taken from the altar of those deities, near the Temple of Olympium, within the walls. This ceremony, which was of high antiquity, was supposed to render the voyage propitious. A painting was also here preserved, representing an equestrian combat of the tyrant Agathocles, and containing the portraits of twenty-seven kings and tyrants, drawn from life. The folding doors, beautifully adorned with ivory and gold, and displaying the Gorgon's head, excited universal admiration, and are mentioned by several writers.

The baptismal font bears an inscription in Greek characters.

Near the great port, and separated from the

waters of the sea by a thick wall, is the celebrated Fountain of Arethusa, the stream of which is still copious. Some remains of an ancient arch, and a wall of large stones, are yet visible; but the nymphs of the spring are now metamorphosed into mere washerwomen. At a small distance, a fresh spring, rising out of the sea, is commemorated as that of the amorous Alpheus, who is fabled to have pursued his beloved Arethusa from Arcadia hither. The tale of this hapless lover, and his cruel mistress, is thus related by Pausanias:—

"Alphei ipsius non in Elco agro, sed in Arcadiâ sunt fontes; de quo vulgata est fabula, virum illum esse venatorem, Arethusamque adamasse; et ipsam venandi studiosam. Quæ quum illius nuptias abnuisset, in insulam Ortygiam apud Syracusas sitam, dicitur transmisisse; atque ibi in fontem esse conversam; ipsi etiam Alpheo accidisse uti præ amore in amnem mutaretur."

This fable was naturally adopted by the poets. Virgil observes,

..... Alpheum fama est, huc Elidis amnem
Occultas egisse vias subter mare; qui nunc
Ore Arethusa duo Siculis confunditur undis.

It still, also, maintains its hold on the popular mind, and is told, if not credited, by those who shew the springs.

In the church of St. Filippo is a subterraneous passage, chiefly remarkable for a long staircase, of an ingenious construction, which winds round a column. This has been improperly considered as a bath, of which it has none of the requisites. It is excavated in the solid rock, and was, probably, intended as a well.

Before the modern castle is a rich and well-executed gateway, in the Grecian or Saracenic architecture, which is supposed to have been built by Maniaces. Fazellus asserts, that he adorned this gate with the two brazen figures of rams, which are now preserved in the palace of the Viceroy at Palermo. Under the castle, I observed the head and breast of a colossal statue of Jupiter, bearing on the breast an inscription cut by the Christians. This fortress commands a good view of the entrance to the great port. In the public library I was shewn some mutilated busts and basso relievos, and the following inscription, formerly placed in the episcopal palace:—

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΟΣ ΑΓΕ	*Rege præunte*
ΙΕΡΩΝΟΣ ΙΕΡΟΚΛΕΟΣ	*Hierone Hieroclis filio*
ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΟΙ ΘΕΟΙΣ ΠΑΣΙ	*Syracusii Diis omnibus.*

The Paroco Locoteta shewed me several leaden stamps, with various figures, lately found. The intent of these has not been ascertained, but they resemble those now used on linen.

Numerous fragments of antique columns, &c., are scattered throughout the whole city.

At present no remains exist of the many fine buildings mentioned by Cicero as adorning the quarters of Acradina and Tyche. Among these was the temple of Jupiter Olympius, built by Hiero, and extending in length a stadium, or quarter of a mile.

The quarter of Neapolis can still boast of its famous theatre, which is excavated in the solid rock, on the declivity of a hill. The seats were wide, and in each a ledge was cut, that the feet of the spectators behind might not incommode those who sat before. On the western side is this inscription, well preserved :—

ΒΑΣΙΛΙΣΣΑΣ	*Reginæ*
ΦΙΛΙΣΤΙΔΩΣ	*Philistidis.*

To this queen I am inclined to ascribe the construction of the theatre. To what race she belonged, or in what era she lived, history has not

informed us; though numerous medals are preserved, bearing her image and name. In Cavaliere Astuto's collection I saw fourteen of these medals, all varying in some trifling peculiarity; and as a proof that her reign was long, she is represented as young in some, and in others as old. Cavaliere Landolina, also, apprised me of another distinction; namely, that in those of her youth the horses on the reverse of the medal are exhibited as in full speed; and standing, in those of her later age. The beauty of the sculpture and execution proves that she reigned in a flourishing period of the arts*.

In the front of the theatre are other characters, but so injured by time, that I could not decypher them. Possibly they composed the name of the architect. The solid structure of this edifice has saved it from ruin; and though neglected, and in some degree injured, it is still an interesting object. In the centre is a mill, supplied from a neighbouring aqueduct with water, which flows

* It is very remarkable that a queen so commemorated should not be better known; history is completely silent as to her origin and family, and she lives chiefly by numismatic record. Those who wish for further information on this subject, may consult Castellus, p. 65.

naturally down the steps of the theatre. The mill and aqueduct, with some groupes of trees, added to a noble and extensive view of the modern Syracuse, and the plain, stretching as far as the temple of Jupiter Olympius, compose, altogether, a most pleasing and picturesque scene.

Adjoining is a bath or reservoir, hollowed in the rock, and supplied with water by means of an aqueduct. It was probably designed for the use of the theatre.

Not far distant is the amphitheatre, situated near the wall, which divided the Acradina and the Neapolis. Its dimensions are not large, though it is well built, with massive blocks of stone. Many of the steps remain; and the eastern and western entrances have been lately discovered. That to the west is opened, and exposed to view. There is reason to doubt whether this structure is of Greek origin; for no instance is known of amphitheatres among the Greeks; and they certainly abhorred those barbarous combats of beasts and gladiators, which afforded such delight to their less humane successors, the Romans. Had this amphitheatre existed even in the days of Cicero, it would probably have found a place in his particular enumeration of public buildings.

Between the amphitheatre and the theatre are the extensive Latomiæ, called *Il Paradiso;* in one of which is the well-known cavity, termed the Ear of Dionysius. It is excavated in the shape of the letter S, and rises to a considerable height, which naturally accounts for the strength of the echo it produces. I am disposed to concur with those, who, from observation and reflection, have questioned the long-established and popular opinion, respecting the use for which this cavern was designed. All these Latomiæ are similar in shape; and in others I have observed traces of the same mode of construction. History, indeed, acquaints us, that the tyrant formed these prisons adjoining his palace; but history has not told us, that his palace was situated in this part of the Acradina. The small apartment, excavated in the rock, above the Latomiæ, and commonly regarded as his hiding place, has been proved not to possess the property ascribed to it, of repeating the voices, and even whispers, of persons in the cavities beneath. These excavations, as well as the building on the insulated fragment of rock adjoining, probably existed before the formation of the Latomiæ, when all the ground was level. Among the huge fallen masses of stone I observed the remains of a staircase, which has served as an ascent to some part of the rock above. On a view of the whole I am inclined to believe, that these, as well as all

the other Latomiæ, were at first begun for the sake of the stone, of which a vast quantity was required for the buildings of so extensive a city as Syracuse. Afterwards these dreary and well-defended caverns may have been deemed proper for prisons, and used as such. These Latomiæ are very capacious and picturesque; one serves as a rope-walk, and another for the extraction of salt-petre. The remains of an aqueduct and bath are still visible. Perhaps the former may have been constructed for the relief of those who were condemned to occupy such dreary abodes.

Under the small church of St. Nicolo, adjoining, is a reservoir for water, divided into three corridores, and supported by square columns.

Behind the theatre, and nearly in the same direction with the walls which divided Tyche from Neapolis, is a street, still flanked on each side with numerous tombs. Among these are two, in the Doric style, remarkable for the elegance of their architecture. To each is a façade, supported by two columns, with a frieze, cornice, &c. They are situated to the east of the theatre, at the angle of the rock, to the left, where the road leads towards Catania.

The quarter of Tyche contains nothing worthy

of particular mention. I observed only the remains of some aqueducts.

The quarter of Epipolæ was the most remote, and extended towards the north-west. I here discovered the ruins of the original walls, beginning opposite the Latomiæ, and stretching to a considerable distance on the northern part of the city. They are formed of large stones, without cement. At one place I was able to measure them, and found their width to exceed nine feet. The remains of an old castle are also visible, constructed with large stones, and supposed to be the *Castellum Labdalum*, thus described by Fazellus:—

"In summâ Epipolis crepidine ac vertice arx erat, Labdalus Græcè appellata. Hæc ex quadratis lapidibus et eis admirandis, miro artificio erat extructa, cujus magnificentiam prostrata adhuc ædificii cadavera testantur; quibus Syracusanæ jam deletæ urbis nulla hodiè extant majora vetustatis monumenta."

Near these ruins is a large subterraneous passage, capable of receiving even cavalry, of which Fazellus has given this account:—

"Apparent inter alia subterraneæ ibi ad plura urbis loca tendentes viæ, e lapide quadrata stratæ,

quibus aut rex, aut milites, siquando, aut seditio exoriretur, aut hostium ingrueret impetus, facilè ad cæteras inde urbis partes penetrarent."

Beyond, on an eminence, now called Belvedere, was probably the *Castellum Euryalus.*

On leaving the *Castellum Labdalum*, and following the direction of the walls, northerly, to return towards the Acradina and the island, considerable fragments are seen of those celebrated walls, which were built, by the order of Dionysius, in the space of twenty days. In the same line are the remains of the gate, through which the victorious Marcellus entered the city. Beneath is the plain, where the Roman army was encamped, and the port called Trogilus; and beyond, the *Scala Greca*, and the road leading between the Acradina and Tyche, the whole course of which may be traced by marks of the wheel carriages.

In the Acradina I may place the extensive Latomiæ, which are situated within the garden of the Capucin convent. These exhibit scenes of the most romantic kind, and afforded me many agreeable hours daily, during my abode there. The features of these caverns in many respects resemble those of the Latomiæ in the *Paradiso.* Here is an insulated rock, on the summit of which part of

a staircase is still visible. Several have been here commenced, in the same pointed form as that called the Ear of Dionysius. I noticed, also, an ancient well, and some sepulchres, excavated in the rock, which are not found in the others. On a stone are traces of an inscription, in Roman characters, which I could not decipher.

These Latomiæ are planted with numerous orange, lemon, pomegranate, almond, and olive trees. The lofty perpendicular rocks are overhung with Indian figs, and the regularity with which these excavations were originally made, has been broken by the shock of repeated earthquakes, which have detached vast masses of stone, and given to these solitary retreats an air of wildness and horror, inexpressibly striking.

The Catacombs, now called the *Grotto di St. Giovanni*, not far from the amphitheatre, may also, I believe, be considered as within the limits of the Acradina. Near the entrance is an old church, said to have been built in the earliest ages of Christianity, and to contain the ashes of St. Marcian. It certainly bears an antique form and appearance, and within are several fragments of old columns, one of which is considered as destined for the execution of the martyrs. Near the church

is a ruined chapel, resembling, in many respects, that of the Pittoruto at Noto, and though of a better form and construction, is probably of the same age. The dome, or cupola, was composed of large stones, and a similar cornice runs round the building. On each side of the entrance are two Doric columns, fluted, and like those of the antique temples; but from the smallness of the stones with which they are formed, and certain projections at the angles of the capitals, appearing like heads, their antiquity may be called in question. Perhaps they were new modelled from antique materials.

These catacombs owe their preservation to their subterraneous situation. From their extent, and the regularity and order with which they are disposed, we may form a more accurate idea of the wealth and magnificence of ancient Syracuse, than from any other monument now existing. A well-planned city has been excavated, under ground, with straight streets, squares, &c. &c. At certain intervals are distinct sepulchres, with vaulted roofs, resembling rotundas; and occasionally, in the middle of the streets, are single sarcophagi. Some of these sepulchres contain numerous niches, and others fewer, according to the numbers of the families to which they belonged.

These catacombs, in regularity, form, extent, and plan, far exceed those of Naples or Rome.

In an open vineyard, not far distant from the church of St. Lucia, are the substructions of an antique building, which deserve notice, from the singularity of the vaulting. The foundations are formed of large oblong stones; and the arches are composed of numerous earthen pipes, like those used for the conveyance of water, connected by a strong cement. Under these pipes are two layers of long thick tiles, between which is a coat of mortar. In a subterraneous chapel is a well executed image of the saint.

Another part of the environs of Syracuse is worthy attention. It is mentioned as a separate town, under the name of Olympium, from the Temple of Jupiter, which was there situated. With regard to this place, Plutarch observes:— "Propinquum erat Jovis Olympii Fanum; quod capere, quia multa ibi aurea atque argentea erant dona cupiebant Athenienses." In this temple was the celebrated statue of Jupiter, which was adorned by Geron with a golden robe, of great weight, formed out of the spoils taken from the Carthaginians. The deity was, however, despoiled of this costly ornament by Dionysius the Elder, with the well-known joke, which has been recorded by Valerius

Maximus:—"Detracto etiam Jovi Olympio magni ponderis aureo amiculo, quo cum tyrannus Hiero e manubiis Carthaginiensium ornaverat, injectoque ei lineo pullio, dixit, Æstate gravem esse aureum amiculum, hyeme frigidum; lineum autem ad utrumque tempus anni aptum." The statue itself is praised by Cicero as one of the finest then existing. It was left in the temple, by Marcellus, the conqueror of Syracuse, but afterwards removed by the less scrupulous Verres, as we find from the accusation of the great Roman orator.

"Hoc tertium, quod M. Marcellus armatus et victor viderat, quod religioni concesserat, quod cives atque incolæ Siracusani colere, advenæ non solum visere, verum etiam venerari solebant, id Verres ex templo Jovis sustulit. Iste omnia quæ requisivit, non ut servaret, verum ut asportaret requisivit."

Of this temple only two fluted columns exist, though seven remained in the time of Cluverius. I found these columns different from the others of the Doric order, which I had observed in various parts of Sicily. The flutings are not continued to the bottom, a small space being left plain, and the number amounts to no more than fifteen, whereas the Doric columns in general have twenty. The circumference of the column somewhat exceeds

eighteen feet. The temple faced Mount Ætna to the north, and Ortygia to the east, and overlooked the extensive marshes, containing the *Lysimelia Stagnum*, and *Syraca palus*, the pestiferous air from which caused such havoc among the Grecian and Carthaginian armies. Through these plains flows the river Anapus, mentioned by Theocritus, Ovid, and Silius Italicus. At some distance from its mouth, it branches off to the left, and receives the waters from the fountain of Cyane, two or three miles farther:—

> Quaque iis Cyanen miscet Anapus aquis.
> Et Cyanes, et Anapus, et Ortygiæ Arethusæ.

On the banks of this clear and rapid stream grows the curious plant called Papyrus, of which the ancients made their paper, previous to the invention of parchment. As this plant is generally supposed to be a native of Egypt, and is not known to grow in any other part of Europe, I think it was probably brought hither by Hiero, and employed to adorn the banks of the river, which led to the celebrated temple and fountain of Cyane. This Cyane was herself a nymph.

> Inter Sicelidas Cyane pulcherrima nymphas;

And, as well as Arethusa, had her lover near at hand:—

> Et me dilexit Anapus.

Poets and historians have designated this spot as the place where Pluto descended to the infernal regions, with his stolen bride. Diodorus says, "Nam Plutonem fabulantur, postquam raptam Proserpinam, propè Syracusas curru deportasset, diruptâ illic terrâ ipsum quidem cum adreptâ ad Orcum descendisse; sed fontem Cyanem tunc produxisse; apud quem solennem quotannis panegyrin celebrant Syracusani." The stream is lost in a round basin of great depth, and filled with the clearest water I ever saw.

These were the principal objects which attracted my attention, during a residence of six days at Syracuse. Two pieces of antiquity I have, however, omitted to mention. The rings cut in the Latomiæ of the *Paradiso*, and in the Ear of Dionysius, which are supposed to have been used in fastening the prisoners confined there; but their height is too great for the purpose. In the rocks are also numerous square and oblong niches, the intent of which has never been explained.

By a review of the ruins of the ancient Syracuse, existing as I have described them, a traveller may certainly be amused; but he will as certainly be disappointed, should he repair hither with such expectations as the fame of Syracuse may naturally inspire. It must, therefore, be con-

templated in reference to its original, not to its present state; and each particular spot must be visited, rather from the historical interest attached to it, than from any indication of past grandeur, which it has now to offer to the view. In this light the very soil, dignified by such exploits and stupendous events, cannot be trodden with indifference.

The lover of history will naturally recal to mind the mighty army and fleet, fitted out by the Athenians, four hundred and fifteen years before Christ, or A. U. R. three hundred and thirty-eight, under the command of Alcibiades, Nicias, and Lamachus, for the subjugation of this island. Such was the zeal of the Athenian citizens for this enterprise, that some enlisted themselves voluntarily, others equipped ships at their own charge, and all anticipated a certain conquest. The generals, in conjunction with the senate, had even decided on the fate of the vanquished, and arranged the future plan of government. The citizens of Syracuse and Selinunte were doomed to captivity; and an annual tribute was to be exacted from the other places. Accompanied by an immense crowd of citizens and strangers, the generals led the army to the port of the Pyræus, the place of embarkation. The whole port was filled by the vessels, the prows of which were ornamented with military

trophies; the smoke of incense ascended from numberless gold and silver vases, which covered the strand; and endless libations were offered to render the gods propitious to the enterprise. After sailing by Tarentum, Metapontum, Creta, and other parts of Magna Græcia, this powerful armament landed at Reggio, in Calabria, and invited the inhabitants to join them. They were joyfully received by the people of Naxus, and afterwards obliged those of Catania to contract with them an alliance against Syracuse.

Alcibiades being recalled, in consequence of an accusation against him, fled for refuge to Sparta, and the command devolved on the other two generals. They sailed for Ægeste; in their way they took the petty town of Hyccara; and having obtained a supply of money from the Segestans, returned to Catania. The first battle was gained by the Athenians, though their general Lamachus was among the slain. But the Syracusans having received considerable supplies from the Lacedæmonians, and the other Sicilian cities, their allies equipped all the vessels fit for service, and determined to risk a naval engagement. The first battle was indecisive, and each party erected trophies of victory; but the subsequent actions proved fatal to the Greeks. Meanwhile the troops were attacked with the plague, in consequence of

the unhealthy situation of their encampment. Demosthenes, who was present, recommended Nicias to return to Athens; but shame and obstinacy prevented him from listening to the advice. Syracuse grew daily more powerful, and confident of success, from the strong reinforcements furnished by her allies; while the plague continued to spread its ravages among the Greeks, and their camp became the scene of commotion and despair. At length numbers spontaneously hurried to their ships, and Nicias was compelled to acknowledge the necessity of a retreat. But the Syracusans, being apprised of his movements, attacked him, both by sea and land. In the first battle Eurymedon fell, and seven of his vessels were sunk in the port, called Dascon; the second completed the ruin of the Greeks, and the destruction of their fleet.

From an eminence I overlooked the site of Ortygia, which was in the possession of the Syracusans. On the right were the extensive plain and marshes, where the Grecian army encamped; and at its extremity was the spot where was situated the magnificent temple of Jupiter Olympius. On the opposite side of the harbour was the *Portus Dascon*, and near it the castle *Plemmyrium*. I had thus before my view the whole scene of this

memorable conflict, and in imagination traced all its vicissitudes.

To cut off the retreat of the Grecian fleet, the Syracusans barred up the mouth of the harbour with their gallies and ships of burthen, which were linked together with chains, and covered with planks, forming at once a platform and a bridge. On the other hand, the Athenians manned their ships with the choicest of their soldiery, and ranged the rest along the shore. Their fleet amounted to one hundred and fifteen sail. The Syracusans drew up their army before their walls; and their fleet, amounting to seventy-four gallies, was followed by a number of smaller vessels, allotted to the youth, who were burning to give the first proof of their valour for the sake, and in the sight, of their parents. The ramparts surrounding the port, and all the neighbouring eminences, were crowded by women, children, and all who were unable to bear arms. Every feeling was absorbed by the magnitude of the stake at issue, and every bosom throbbed with anxiety and agitation.

I indulged my fancy in contemplating these awful preparations; and having arranged the situation of both parties, I cast my eye over the

spacious and noble port, to trace in memory the succeeding scene. Nicias, conscious of the perils with which he was surrounded, leaped into the first vessel which offered itself, and visited every ship. He addressed each captain by name: he reminded those who were parents, of their families and children, left behind them at Athens; he exhorted those who had received public honours, to prove their title to them on this occasion; he represented to all, that their own safety, as well as that of their fellow-citizens and country, depended on their firmness and courage. He exclaimed, that this was the last resource which fortune had left them; and finally he besought them not to lose those laurels at Syracuse, which their forefathers had won at Salamine; nor change their past trophies for chains and bondage. After this animated address, the signal was given. The Athenians bore down suddenly against the chain of gallies, hoping to force a passage; but were prevented by the Syracusans, who, mingling with their enemies, obliged them to come to a decisive battle. All attempts to break the chain being frustrated, the vessels were speedily dispersed over the whole port, each finding its adversary, and maintaining a distinct engagement.

The Syracusans, animated by the sight of their

parents, wives, and children, vied with each other in the most desperate acts of bravery. Some, when their own vessel was sinking, leaped into the next, and continued the fight; some by grapnels drew the enemy's ships, and obliged them to combat man to man; others boarded their antagonists, destroyed the crew, and fought with the vessel, as if their own. The confusion became general; signals could be neither seen nor heard, and each chief obeyed only the impulse of his own spirit. The cries of the wounded; the hymns and exhortations of the spectators on the walls, or their moans and lamentations, according to the events of the battle; the shock of vessels rushing against each other, or driven on shore; the mangled heaps of dead and dying; and the shattered wrecks floating on the water; all combined to form a scene, the most awful and horrible which imagination could conceive. The Syracusans lost only eight of their ships; the Athenians sixty, and the remainder of their fleet was burnt. After this disaster the army endeavoured to retreat, but being cut off from Catania by the Syracusans, they were obliged to return to the plain of Elorus, where they were inclosed between the hostile army and the river Asinarus. They were here attacked and broken; eighteen thousand were killed, and seven thousand taken prisoners, among whom were the two chiefs, Nicias and Demosthenes.

On the subject of this memorable defeat Polybius has recorded an anecdote not mentioned by other historians. "This general, Nicias, having found a fair occasion for withdrawing his army from the siege of Syracuse, made choice of the proper time of the night, and had retreated to a safe distance, undiscovered by the enemy, when it happened that the moon was suddenly eclipsed. Being struck by this event, and vainly imagining that it portended some misfortune, he immediately suspended his march. The consequence was, that when he designed to continue his retreat on the following night, the Syracusans, having now gained notice of his motions, fell upon him as he marched, and rendered themselves masters both of the leaders and of the whole army*."

The two captive generals were afterwards put to death, and the prisoners condemned to a life of misery and slavery in the Latomiæ.

In memory of this victory the Syracusans erected two trophies on the spot. One of these is, probably, that called the *Pizzuta*, between the rivers Asinarus and Elorus, which I have already described.

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* Polybius, book ix. extract iv.

The marshes were afterwards no less fatal to the Carthaginians than to the Athenians. The same noxious air caused a plague among a vast army, employed in the siege of Syracuse; and occasioned the loss of almost the whole, amounting to three hundred thousand men.

After examining a spot, which presents so many claims to attention, I followed the southern direction of the city walls, and visited the Catacombs. From thence I proceeded to the Theatre, which commands an extensive prospect over the marshes, the port, and the island. Here, also, recollections of peculiar interest were awakened. In this theatre, the wise and virtuous Timoleon received the applause of a grateful people, for restoring liberty to Syracuse; for releasing it from the heavy and irksome yoke of tyranny; and for laying the foundation of peace and prosperity, by new modelling its laws, and regulating its government.

As a lover of painting, I enjoyed, in the Latomiæ of Acradina and Neapolis, those romantic scenes which are formed by a mixture of rude and cultivated nature, and which grandeur and novelty combine to render so striking. The impression was rather heightened than weakened by the associations which they called forth; the recollection of those horrors which once hung over these

gloomy abodes, the seat of cruelty and oppression. Here thousands lingered out their lives in bondage, misery, and want. Here parents brought to light an unhappy offspring, often destined to know no other world but this. Perhaps to those rings the suffering victims were attached. Perhaps that tomb, cut in the rock, received the remains, and terminated the sorrows of some noble captive; and those letters, now faintly traced on the neighbouring stone, embodied the complaints or soothed the despair of some wretched prisoner. Perhaps to these very quarries was condemned the poet Philoxenus, for daring to criticise the literary productions of a tyrant; and, perhaps, in that recess, or on that stone, he composed his poem of the Cyclops. These Latomiæ are admirably described in the oration of Cicero against Verres :—

"Latomias Syracusanas omnes audistis; plerique nostis; opus est ingens magnificum regum ac tyrannorum; totum est ex saxo in mirandam altitudinem depresso, et multorum operis penitus exciso. Nihil tam clausum ad exitus, nihil tam septum undique, nihil tam tutum ad custodias, nec fieri nec cogitari potest."

Had I been as great a lover of poetry as I am of history, I might have indulged my imagination on the banks of the Anapus, over the transparent

and limpid streams of Arethusa, Alphæus, and Cyane; I might have roamed with Theocritus over the neighbouring plains, and called up in idea the fabulous scenes which poetry has recorded of those nymphs and their lovers.

> ..... Et quicquid Græcia mendax
> Audet in historiâ.

Quitting the theatre, I pursued my track towards the western extremity of the city. Here my eye wandered over the street already mentioned as flanked on each side by antique sepulchres. It was no difficult task for my imagination to select a spot, nay even a niche, in which reposed the ashes of the illustrious Archimedes. I figured to myself the anxious search of the no less illustrious Roman (Cicero), and the joy which he felt at discovering the tomb of a man who was then forgotten by his countrymen, but whose name will survive till science itself be lost. "Ita nobilissima Græciæ civitas, quondam verò etiam doctissima, sui civis unius acutissimi monumentum ignorasset, nisi ab homine Arpinate didicisset."

Continuing to follow the walls, which led to Epipolæ, I there observed the remains of a strong castle, perhaps that called Labdalum. Adjoining, to the north, I saw the relics of the celebrated walls raised by Dionysius in the space of twenty

days. Pursuing my course back, towards Acradina, I beheld the traces of the gate through which Marcellus entered the city. In the vale beneath was the Roman encampment, and the *Portus Trogilus*. I returned home by the *Scala Græca*, over the ancient road, which divided the quarters of Tyche and Acradina. On surveying these extensive quarters, now without the vestige of human habitation, and reflecting on the numberless changes which this famed city has undergone; its military power; its riches and magnificence; its celebrated men, and its once numerous population, now dwindled down from above a million to less than twenty thousand; I lamented its sad reverse of fortune, and, like Marcellus, almost wept at witnessing its present fallen, state and deplorable condition.

Monday, April 12. Left Syracuse by the ancient road, which led between Acradina and Tyche, and descended the *Scala Græca* into the plain beneath. In the middle of this stony plain, about six miles from Syracuse, and opposite the island called Magnisi, are the remains of a building, supposed to have been raised as a military trophy by Marcellus, after his conquest of Syracuse. The conjecture derives some colour from the consideration, that this was the site of the Roman encampment; or the structure may perhaps have been the

sepulchral monument of some illustrious warrior, who fell during the memorable siege. The whole is constructed of large stones; but is in such a dilapidated state, that little of its form can be traced. The basement is square, and appears to have supported a pyramidal superstructure.

I pursued my course through this plain, which is neglected and uncultivated, leaving, on the right, the city and port of Augusta, supposed by Cluverius to be the Xiphonia of antiquity; and on the left the town of Mililli, built on the declivity of the Hyblæan mountains, and famous for its growth of sugar. I traversed the rivers Cantaro, Marcellino, and St. Giuliano, which discharge themselves into the port of Augusta. The river Cantaro is supposed to be the Alabus of the ancients, which, according to Diodorus, was celebrated for the works there constructed by Dædalus:—

"Prope Megaridem mirâ ingenii solertiâ Colymbethram (sive piscinam seu lavacrum) quam vocant, fecit: ex quâ magnus fluvius Alabaus in proximum mare eructatur."

The site of the ancient Megara is placed at a short distance from the bank of this river, towards the south; and, according to both Cluverius and

Fazellus, its ruins existed in their time. The *Colymbethra* could also be traced; for Cluverius observes, "Hujus ad Alabum Colymbethræ exigua quædam adhuc extant vestigia. In ipso autem littore ad jactum teli ab dextra Alabi ripâ diruti oppidi mœnia, quorum ambitus mille est passuum, ex quadratis ingentibusque saxis, hinc inde disjecta, ædificiorumque intra ea magnæ atque mirandæ, nuper adhuc visebantur ruinæ. Hyblæ illius antiquæ, sive Megaræ, esse reliquias certum est."

Megara has attained both poetical and historical celebrity. It is thus mentioned by Virgil:—

Vivo præter vehor ostia saxo
Pantagiæ, Megarosque sinus, Tapsumque jacentem.

Of its foundation Thucydides gives the following account:—

"Theocles atque Chalcidenses, e Naxo profecti, septimo post conditas Syracusas anno, Leontinos, ejectis bello Siculis condiderunt, atque inde Catanam. Per idem verò tempus et Lamis à Megaris coloniam ducens in Siciliam adpulit, et super flumen Pantaciam oppidum quoddam Trotilum condidit. At id postmodum relinquens in Leontinos cum suis abiit: quumque aliquantum

temporis illic unà rempublicam administrasset, tandem ab iis pulsus, Thapsum condidit. Mox eo defuncto, reliqui e Thapse migrarunt, ac duce Hyblone, Siculorum rege, qui etiam terram dederat, Megarenses condiderunt qui Hyblæi sunt dicti."

Strabo relates the circumstance of the foundation in a different manner:—

"Theoclem Atheniensem, ait Ephorus, ab instituto cursu ventis in Siciliam delatum, cum hominum eam incolentium vilitatem, tum insulæ præstantiam adnotasse: quumque domum reversus, Atheniensibus uti coloniam ibi mitterent, non persuaderet, adscito magno Eubœam incolentium numero, Ionum item nonnullis atque Doriensium, quorum major pars erant Megarenses, in Siciliam navigasse; ibique Chalcidenses, Naxum, Dorienses, verò Megara, condidisse, cui priùs nomen fuit Hybla."

Thus Strabo places its foundation before that of Syracuse; Thucydides, after. Its situation, however, is ascertained; and also that Megara and Hybla were one and the same city. The Hyblæan hills, so celebrated for their delicious honey, were apparently those above Mililli. To

this spot, and its production, the poets have given due celebrity. Virgil says,

. . . . . Thymo mihi dulcior Hyblæ.

And Ovid,

Florida quàm multas Hybla tuetur apes.
Cana priùs gelido desint Absynthia Ponto,
Et careat dulci Trinacris Hybla thymo.
Africa quot segetes, quot Tmolia terra racemos,
Quot Sicyon baccas, quot parit Hybla favos.

Martial also observes,

Quum dederis Siculos mediis de collibus Hyblæ,
Cecropios dicas tu, licet esse favos.

The latter part of my journey was more hilly, and the whole of the road was stony and rough, with several bad passes of stiff clay. On the right, I observed the snowy summit of Mount Ætna. I passed under Carlentini, a modern town, situated on an eminence, and built in the time of Charles the Fifth. After a tedious and fatiguing journey, I reached the convent of the PP. Conventuali di Francesco, at Lentini.

Tuesday, April 13. My stay at Lentini was very short, as I could not discover any trace of the venerable and celebrated city of the Leontines, which was situated in the vicinity. If we may

credit tradition, this was the most ancient city in Sicily, and the habitation of the Lestrigones, who dwelt in caverns:—

> Prima Leontinos vastarunt prælia campos,
> Regnatam duro quondam Lestrigone terram.

In the neighbourhood are several caverns, which are still shewn as the original dwellings of this nation.

Of the city itself Polybius has left us an exact local description:—

"Urbs Leontinorum, si totius loci inclinationes spectes, vergit ad septemtriones. Per mediam verò urbem plana quædam porrigitur convallis: in quâ et magistratuum est curia, et judiciorum sedes; denique Forum ipsum: utrumque hujus convallis latus colles prætexunt, continuis præcipitiis asperi; atque super collium horum supercilia est planities; domibus templisque referta. Partes urbis sunt duæ: una quæ ab extremo dictæ convallis meridionali Syracusas ducit: altera, quæ ab extremo septemtrionibus obverso ad campos fert, quos Leontinos vocant, et agrum coli aptum. Præruptam rupem alteris collis, eam nempe, quæ ad occasum spectat, amnis præterlabitur quem Lissum adpellant. Sub imâ rupe continua series proten-

ditur domorum multarum, quæ, pari intervallo, omnes a fluvio distant. Inter has et amnem illa, quam diximus, via est intersecta."

"The city of Leontium, considered in its general position, is turned towards the north. Through the middle of it runs a level valley, which contains the public buildings allotted to the administration of government and justice, and, in a word, the whole that is called the Forum. The two sides of the valley are enclosed by two hills, which are rough and broken, along their whole extent. But the summit of these hills, above the brows, is flat and plain, and is covered with temples and with houses. There are also two gates to the city. One of them is in the southern extremity of the valley, and conducts to Syracuse. The other is on the opposite side, and leads to those lands, so famed for their fertility, and which are called the Leontine fields. Below the hill, that stands on the western side of the valley, flows the river Lissus; and on the same side, likewise, there is a row of houses, built under the very precipice, and in a line parallel to the river. Between these houses and the river lies the road which has been mentioned*."

* Hampton's Polybius, vol. iii. p. 103.

The situation of the modern town corresponds, in a great measure, with that of the ancient. It is built, partly on a level, partly on the declivity of the hill. Above are the rocks, on one of which are the remains of an old castle. This city gave birth to the famous orator Gorgias, whose eloquence induced the Athenians to undertake the fatal expedition against Syracuse. Hieronymus the Younger, the last king of Syracuse, was killed in this city. It underwent various revolutions in the time of Dionysius, and the other Sicilian tyrants, which it would be tedious to relate. The account given of its origin by Thucydides has been already quoted.

On the northern side of the city is the *Lago di Lentini*, the largest lake in Sicily. It abounds with fish and wild fowl; but the air which exhales from this lake on one side, and from the extensive *pantani*, or marshes, on the other, has proved fatal to the neighbouring towns. Lentini suffered severely from the dreadful earthquake in 1693. The fertility of the plains through which I passed in my way to Catania was celebrated in antiquity. Diodorus says, "Inde per Leontinum campum, pergens Hercules, pulchritudinem agri admiratus est." And again, "In Leontino campo, aliisque Siciliæ locis compluribus, etiamnum triticum nasci aiunt, quod agreste vocant." Cicero also mentions the

"ager Leontinus," as "cultissimus et caput rei frumentariæ." These plains have lost none of their claims to fertility.

Leaving these rich plains, and the lake on the left, I crossed a ridge of hills, from whence I discovered the extensive marshes and *pantani* on the right. I then descended into the spacious plain of Catania, watered by the river le Jarreta, which I traversed in a ferryboat. This river was the ancient Symæthus, which is mentioned by the classic writers as the largest in Sicily. From the depth of the clay, the roads are in many places very bad, and even almost impassable.

Thursday, April 15. The foundation of Catania is mentioned in the passage already quoted from Thucydides. By a passage of Strabo, we learn that Catania lost its first inhabitants, and that a new colony was transported hither by Hiero, tyrant of Syracuse, who changed its name to Ætna. Some time after, however, the original inhabitants, who had been removed into the territory of the Leontines, were restored to their native country Subsequently they were again reduced to captivity by the tyrant Dionysius, and their city given to the Campanians. The place was much damaged by Pompey; but it was repaired by Augustus Cæsar, who sent thither a Roman

colony. In later times it suffered severly by earthquakes, and by eruptions from Mount Ætna. The lavas of 1668, and the earthquake of 1699, were peculiarly injurious: the latter entirely destroyed the city, so that its present appearance is quite modern. The streets are wide, and one is considerably longer than the Cassaro at Palermo, which is a mile in length; but the extraordinary *height of the houses renders them less striking to the view.* Some handsome churches and other buildings occur, though the streets are so ill planned, as to be exposed at all hours to a scorching sun.

The antiquities still existing are numerous; but I could examine them only imperfectly and partially, because they are almost all buried several feet under ground. The most magnificent remains are those of the baths, the Amphitheatre, and the Theatre. I descended to the baths through an aperture, immediately before the door of the cathedral. They consist of several arcades ornamented with basso relievos, in stucco; and, from their extent, are supposed to have been destined for the accommodation of the public. They may be traced in various places, particularly near the church of the Carmelites, called *L'Indirizzo*, where there are considerable remains of the old building. The plan of the baths and *stufe* is very visible.

The pavement was supported by small round columns of brick; and earthen pipes ran round the *stufe*, to admit the vapour rising from beneath. I observed, also, a vaulted room, surmounted with a cupola. The whole is erected on a layer of lava, which is perceptible in different places; and, indeed, constructed with lava, intermixed with bricks and long thick tiles.

The amphitheatre principally lies under the ancient *Piazza Stesi corca*, now called *Porta di Ari*. It suffered much in the time of the Goths, whose king, Theodoric, permitted the two upper orders to be destroyed, and the materials to be employed in erecting the walls of the city. Sufficient, however, is still left to prove its pristine magnificence. It is constructed with large pieces of lava, united with cement, strengthened with pilasters, and adorned with a bold but simple cornice. The marble columns now in the market-place of St. Filippo were taken from this edifice.

The plan of the Theatre is very perfect. I traced its *vomitoria* leading to three stories, its porticos, part of the seats, and scene; and a fine aqueduct beneath, apparently anterior to the structure itself, and formed of a different kind of stone. In a street opposite, on the left hand, and in the same direction, is a continuation of ancient

fabrics, consisting of several arches, and probably part of this building.

Adjoining the theatre is another well-preserved structure, called the Odeo, or small theatre, which communicated with it. This is the only building of the kind known to exist, unless that not yet excavated at Pompeii should prove to be similar. A very considerable part of the outer circle is still visible above ground.

The church of Sta. Maria Rotunda is surmounted with a circular cupola, like that of the Pantheon; and, though on a very small scale, bears evident marks of antiquity.

Near the church of Sta. Maria del' Idria are remains of antique buildings. These, as well as those before mentioned, are supposed to have formed part of the extensive baths, discovered by the Prince of Biscaris, under the piazza of the Benedictine convent. Not far from hence was found the Greek and Latin inscription alluding to the Nympheum existing here. It is now preserved in the Biscaris Museum. Near the *Bastione degli Infetti*, some ruins, scarcely distinguishable, are shewn as the remains of the temple of Ceres. In a garden adjoining, I observed the traces of a small bath, with its marble pavement.

The Benedictine convent is highly deserving the notice of every traveller. The vast extent and general neatness of the buildings are very striking. It is enriched with a large museum, containing a collection of subjects in natural history, medals, inscriptions, some fine Græco-Siculo vases, and basso relievos. One of these, consisting of four figures, and representing the initiation of a young woman into the mysteries of Bacchus, pleased me much. There is, also, a small basso relievo of Ceres, said to have been found in her temple. The library is handsome; the church spacious and simple in its architecture, not being yet adorned with rich marbles. It contains an organ, justly celebrated as one of the most remarkable in Europe; the variety of its notes, and its accurate imitation of various other musical instruments, is astonishing. It is far superior to that which I heard at St. Martino, near Palermo. The garden of the convent, which is laid out in a labyrinth of small walks, is a singular instance of persevering labour; being constructed on the lava of 1669, which has been levelled with infinite pains, and earth transported hither to afford a bed for the plants.

I before mentioned that some magnificent baths had been discovered in the square before this convent, to which those near Sta. Maria Rotunda, and

Sta. Maria del' Idria, together with an ancient building in the *Chiesa della Concezione*, called *Le Carieri di St. Cataldo*, are supposed to have belonged. In this last an aqueduct is visible; and in the square before the convent was found a mosaic, representing the twelve months of the year, preserved partly in the Biscaris, and partly in the Benedictine Museum.

Without the walls are the remains of aqueducts, which conveyed water from Licodia to Catania, a distance of eighteen miles. Four arches only are standing, and a fifth is fallen. The ancient Forum is conjectured to have been situated at the place at present called St. Pantaleo, where there is a series of vaults, now converted into habitations, which appear to have originally formed part of a quadrangle. Near this spot are the remains of a bath, and part of a mosaic pavement.

Adjoining the Amphitheatre, and in the church of Sta. Agata dei Santi Carceri, are the traces of antique buildings, supposed to have been used as prisons. At the high altar of the church is an old picture, representing the saint in the hands of the soldiers. In the back ground is the Amphitheatre, as it then stood, and close to it the prisons just mentioned. This picture, considering its an-

tiquity, possesses great merit. It bears this date and inscription:—

BERNARDINVS NIGER
GRECVS FACIEBAT
1388.

In the church of Sta. Agata *Vetere* is the sarcophagus of the saint. The cover is modern, but the shell of an older date, and adorned with two griffins in basso relievo. Numerous sepulchres have been discovered in various parts of the city; one is under the chapel of the *Romitorio della Mecca*, and two in the garden of the convent di Sta. Maria di Giesu, one of which is round, and the other square. Both appear to have been buildings of some consideration.

The museum of the Prince of Biscaris contains a rich collection of various antiquities, chiefly Sicilian. The medals are numerous, and choice; the Græco-Siculo vases, lamps, and idols, numerous also. Most of these last were found among the ruins of the ancient Camerina. Here are, besides, many curious Greek inscriptions. One discovered in the baths records their restoration and name of

ΘΕΡΜΑΤΑΙ ΑΧΙΛΛΕΙΑΙ

The Torso, of a colossal figure, is the richest

jewel in this museum. It is in the finest style of sculpture, but the drapery is bad. A base and pedestal, belonging to a column of the theatre, adorned with basso relievos, and wreaths of foliage, is in so rich and crowded a taste, that I suspect it to have been a work of the later empire. Here is also a large collection of antiquities, in lava, granite, &c. and a good collection of natural history: In this respect, however, the museum of Cavaliere Gioeni is far superior to either that of Biscaris, or the Benedictines. Indeed, I have never seen a museum arranged in better taste.

During my stay at Catania, I walked to the Villa Scabrosa belonging to the Prince of Biscaris, which, like the garden of the Benedictines, has been formed out of a dreadful sea of lava. Nature has been forced, and a vegetation, not very luxuriant, produced by means of transported earth. Here are two reservoirs of water, supplied by fresh springs, and abundantly stocked with fish. On the verge of one grows the *papyrus*, transplanted from the banks of the Anapus; though from the effect of the sea breezes it does not grow very vigorously. Near the castle, which, previous to the eruption of 1669, stood on the margin of the sea, and was almost miraculously preserved from destruction, is a singular *lusus* of the lava. In its course the burning fluid leaped over a wall,

which is still seen beneath, and formed a species of natural arch, over a well and bath.

The Cathedral of Catania is adorned with the columns which once belonged to the theatre. In a square before it is an elephant sculptured in lava, and supporting on its back an Egyptian obelisk. The idea was probably taken from that at Rome, executed by Cavaliere Bernini.

These are the principal objects which I examined during a stay of two days and a half at Catania; a time too short to explore all the antiquities existing there, some of which in the vicinity, and even in the city itself, I left unnoticed. Mount Ætna was so covered with snow, that I could not venture to gratify the curiosity, which every stranger naturally feels, to ascend this stupendous volcano. My return to Catania, at a fitter season, being absolutely necessary, I reserved the antiquities for another visit, though from their subterraneous situation, the damages they have received from different eruptions, and the successive reparations they have undergone, added to the dingy hue of their materials, the ruins of Catania are by no means the most attractive and interesting in Sicily. Of all those which I examined, the most worthy of notice are the Theatre, Odeo,

Amphitheatre, and Baths. For the second time, since my departure from Palermo, I here found myself in an inn, and much better than I expected to meet with in the island.

FROM CATANIA TO TAORMINA, MESSINA, MILAZZO, PATTI, CEFALU, AND PALERMO.

FRIDAY, April 16. I left Catania, and pursued my journey towards Taormina. For a considerable time I travelled over the lava, cast forth in the eruptions of Mount Ætna, which precludes all vegetation. I found the country far better inhabited than the other parts of Sicily; numerous little dwellings and villages are scattered on the declivities of the mountain, wherever the natural fertility of the soil offered a temptation for a settlement. At one of these villages I stopped to dine, and refresh my mules; and found a tolerable little inn, *Alle Giarre*. The village consists of one long and large street; and the inhabitants make much paste and macaroni. From hence the country bears a more pleasing and picturesque aspect than is usual in this island. The mountains are lofty and irregular in shape, well cultivated to their very summits, and agreeably dotted with villages and detached houses. After leaving Catania, I found wood more abundant than hitherto, for the southern

and south-eastern coasts are destitute of forests, and produce only fruit-trees; whereas here are many oaks, chesnuts, &c. and the number increases in proportion to the height of the mountain.—Taormina appears at a considerable distance; crowning a rugged eminence. Previous to my ascent towards it, I passed two rivers, the *Fiume Freddo*, and the *Fiume Alcantaro*; which last is traversed by a bridge. Near this spot was the city of Naxos, one of the most ancient in Sicily. Cluverius places it near the *Fiume Freddo*, five miles from Taormina; Fazellus at the distance of only two miles, at a place called *Lo Schiso*, which Cluverius considers as the original port belonging to the city of Taormina. The original name of the *Fiume Alcantaro* was Onobola. At the foot of the mountain on which Taormina is situated, is the petty village of *Li Giardini*; where I was obliged to quit my litter, and mount my mule. I took up my lodging at the Capuchin convent. During this day's journey the roads were tolerably good, except over the torrents of lava.

Sunday, April 18. I cannot give a better description of the situation of Taormina, than in the words of Fazellus:—

"Urbs verò mediis in rupibus, partim ad mare vergentibus, partim cœlum ipsum contingen-

tibus, in montium angulo est condita. Aspectu siquidem, quo in Eoum tendit, inferius intercisas et præruptas habet rupes, in mare superum longè latèque prospicientes: superius verò altissimas Alpes, ad quarum angulum sita est. Ad verticem Alpium extat arx, et oppidulum Mola nomine: vetustum sanè, et expugnatu difficillimum, et mœnibus circumseptum, cujus situs per se nullis etiam mœnibus roboratus, munitissima arcis viscera tueatur. Circumquaque latera habet tutissima, vel ex eo, quod vicina ei loca in præceps labentia, nulli sunt subjecta."

Of its origin and name Diodorus gives the following account:—

"In Athenis summum gerente magistratum, Chephisidoro, Andromachus Tauromenita, Timæi qui historias conscripsit, pater, vir, opibus et animi splendore excellens, quod exsulum Naxi quam Dionysius exciderat reliquum erat, hinc inde congregans, collem, qui Tauri nomine Naxo imminebat, habitandum illis dedit; et quia ad longum temporis spatium illic subsisterat a manendo, quod Græcis est μένειν in Tauro, Taurmenium nuncupavit: quumque subitis oppidum hoc incrementis bearetur, factum est, uti et incolæ ingentes opes, et urbs dignitatem amplissimam sibi compararet. Nostrâ tandem ætate, translatis per

Cæsarem è patriâ Tauromenitis, Romanorum coloniam accepit."

The remains of antique grandeur render Taormina an object of peculiar interest to travellers in Sicily. Nature, too, has added her share of embellishment to the scenes which this vicinity affords; the mountains are well wooded, and agreeably varied; the villages placed in lofty and romantic situations; and the ruins so advantageously disposed as to form the most rich and picturesque landscapes which have yet met my view.

The Theatre has deservedly attracted general notice and admiration. All the others, which exist in Sicily and elsewhere, want their principal ornament, the *scena*, which is here nearly entire. The space allotted to the orchestra is also preserved, as well as the dressing-rooms for the actors, and the greater portion of the inner gallery, adorned with several niches, which were probably destined for statues. The whole is built of brick, and in this respect it differs from the other antique structures in Sicily. It was, however, adorned with numerous columns of various species of marble, many fragments of which are yet on the spot, and have been indiscriminately incrusted in the walls, without taste, or attention to the places they originally occupied. The architect followed the usual principle, in

rendering nature subservient to art, and to his own purpose, by availing himself of the natural declivity of the ground, in the disposition of the galleries and seats. His taste and judgment, too, are equally striking; for I cannot conceive that a similar situation is to be found again in all Europe; the centre of the scene being so placed as to open directly on Mount Ætna, and the magnificent regions beneath. What a glorious prospect! what a noble back ground! The mountain at one time vomiting flames and thick columns of smoke; at another, clothed to its very summit with snow. Below are various districts marked with different shades of vegetation, according to their distance from the crater; enlivened with villages, and sloping down towards the sea. An extensive reach of coast, as far as the *Capo di Croce*, near Augusta, and the ancient town of Naxus beneath, closes the view. Such were the prospects which the first inhabitants of Taormina enjoyed from the benches of their theatre; and however exquisite might have been the performances of art here exhibited, we may safely doubt whether they ever rivalled the scenery displayed by nature. Behind the galleries the view is scarcely inferior to that in front: an extensive sweep of coast towards Messina, and the distant shore of Calabria, present a different, though scarcely less enchanting, prospect. The spot, indeed, seems to have been created for a

public edifice; behind and before are steep precipices, which leave just room sufficient to place this most noble and magnificent structure. I visited it frequently, and never left it without regret; and after the numerous relics of antiquity which I have seen in different countries, I may may venture to say, that none afforded me higher gratification than the Theatre of Taormina.

Tha remains of an extensive and magnificent building, generally considered as the *Naumachia*, merit attention. They consist of a long wall, built of very large bricks without and massive stones within; and adorned with a series of niches, eighteen or nineteen of which are preserved: the heads of these are alternately rectangular and semicircular, the rectangular being the smallest. The corresponding wall on the opposite side is plain. A pavement of large, square, flat stones have been discovered; and on one of the bricks I observed some characters which I could not decipher. Adjoining was a large reservoir for water, of which four others exist at Taormina, though one only, and that the smallest, remains in a tolerable state of preservation. This consists of two arcades, supported by eight pilasters. At one end is the entrance, to which a descent is formed by a staircase; and in another part of the building is a contrivance to discharge the superfluous water.

The whole is exceedingly well built, and the stones are incrusted in the same manner as the walls of the *Piscina mirabilis*, near Baiæ. This piscina is on the side of the mountain, above the Capuchin convent; and behind the convent are the remains of the aqueduct, which conveyed water to the city from a considerable distance. These cisterns seem to have been destined to supply the inhabitants with water, in case the aqueducts should be destroyed by an enemy; for the elevated situation of the place rendered it necessary to resort to art for a supply of that element. Indeed, a modern aqueduct, following the course of the ancient, still furnishes the water used in the town.

Many other relics of antiquity are to be found in Taormina. The church of St. Panerazio appears to me of Grecian origin, and is perhaps the oldest building here. The outside walls of the present church are evidently the remains of an antique structure, perhaps the cell of a temple; the steps still exist; and the whole is formed of large stones, well united, without mortar. Close to this church are the foundations of another old building, the walls of which are lined with marble. Near the gate leading to Messina are also considerable remains of a third edifice, in brick, called

la Zecca. In various parts of the town I observed fragments of mosaic, broken columns, &c. &c.; and in the church belonging to the monastery of Valverde are some Greek inscriptions, which I did not copy, because they have been already published by the Principe di Torremuzza.

On the eastern side of the town, and behind the convent of the Capuchins, near the aqueducts, numerous sepulchres may be seen, adorned with pilasters, stuccos, &c., and apparently of Roman workmanship. Near the Chiesa di St. Pietro, under the convent of Sta. Maria di Giesù, are many others of a different construction, probably Saracenic. I also traced the ancient walls in various places. The wines of Taormina were so excellent, and so agreeable to my palate, that I furnished myself with a considerable supply; and on

Monday, April 19, I left with regret this romantic and picturesque spot, which antique art, and nature, have equally contributed to adorn. I descended a steep mountain to the shore, where I found my litter and horses; and, continuing my journey along the sea coast, observed many quarries of different kinds of marble, which abound in the territory of Taormina. The mountains, as before, were culti-

vated to their summits, and enlivened with numerous villages, &c. At S. Alessio is a rapid rise and descent, and the road is stony and bad. The castle, situated on a rugged eminence, forms a picturesque object. I again descended to the sea beach, and continued my journey to *Fiume di Nisi*, where I dined, and refreshed my mules. Here the mountains approach nearer the shore, and are less cultivated. Plantations of mulberry trees, for the support of silkworms, begin to make their appearance; and the Calabrian coast, with the town of Reggio, becoming still more visible, contribute to enliven the scene. I crossed many rivers, which in heavy rains must be very rapid, if not unpassable. Except at the pass of St. Alessio, the road skirts the shore, and is generally good. Before I reached Messina, I found numerous villas and gardens, and an extensive suburb. This is called the *Dromo*, and is much frequented by the nobility in the season of the Villeggiatura. I entered Messina by the *Porta Nuova*, and took up my quarters near it, at the Phœnix. In this quarter of the town I observed few traces of the devastation occasioned by the earthquakes in 1783, the houses having been since rebuilt, and the damages repaired.

Thursday, April 22. Before I describe the Faro of Messina, from whence I am just returned,

it will be necessary to make a few remarks on the city and its vicinity. Of the ancient inhabitants Thucydides has preserved this account:—

"Zancle, ab initio, à piratis Cumæis, quæ civitas Chalcidica est in Opicis, inhabitata fuit. Postmodum verò Chalcidensium et reliquæ Eubœæ multitudo eò profecti regionem eam incoluerunt, cujus coloniæ duces fuère Perieres atque Cratæmenes, alter e Cumis, a Chalcide alter. Vocabatur autem primùm urbs ab Siculis Zancle; quia speciem falcis locus is habet: falcem enim Siculi Zanclon adpellant. Cœterùm illos posteà Samii et nonnulli alii Jones Medos fugentes in Siciliam profecti, ejecerunt. Samios haud ita multo post Anaxilaus Rheginorum tyrannus ejecit, urbemque hinc hominibus, cum ipsis permixtis, frequentatam, a patria ex quâ antiquam originem trahebat, Messenen adpellavit."

"*Zancle* was originally founded by a band of pirates, who arrived there from Cyme, a Chalcidic city in Opicia, though afterwards a numerous reinforcement from Chalcis, and the rest of Eubœa, joined them, and possessed that district in community. The founders were Perieres and Cratæmenes; one of them from Cumæ, the other from Chalcis. But the name of *Zancle* was first of all given it by the Sicilians, because in shape it bears

resemblance to a scythe, and the Sicilians call a scythe *zanclon*. But, in process of time, these people were driven from thence by the Samians and other Ionians, who, flying from the Medes, had landed in Sicily. And, after a short interval, Anaxilaus, tyrant of the Rhegians, ejected the Ionians, repeopled the city with a number of mixed inhabitants, and changed its name to *Messene*, in honour of the country from whence he was originally descended."—Smith's Thucydides, b. vi.

Strabo, however, differs from Thucydides, in ascribing its origin and foundation to the inhabitants of Naxos.

In the modern city we look in vain for monuments of its pristine grandeur and magnificence: all have perished, and not even a fragment remains to attest its antiquity. In later times, the fates seem to have conspired against this unfortunate place. A plague swept away a great part of the inhabitants; then rebellion spread its dreadful ravages; and, finally, the late dreadful earthquakes, in 1783, completed the downfal of a city, which rivalled, if it did not surpass, Palermo. It is impossible to view, without a mingled sentiment of pity and horror, the heap of ruins, which indicate what Messina was. The port is so fine, that it appears to have been the work of art rather

than of nature. The Pallazzata, now totally destroyed, together with the several ports, the opposite shores of Calabria, and a long sweep of coast, on each side towards the Faro, must have formed a most impressive and enchanting scene. Its former name of Zancle, derived from *zanclon*, a sickle, truly indicates the shape of this wonderful port.

The Palazzata presented a façade of regular architecture, extending from one end of the quay to the other. At certain intervals were fine arches, or gateways, leading to the different streets of the city; and in order not to break the conformity of the structure, the doors of all the houses which composed it opened into a street behind. A broad and handsome causeway intervened between the houses and the port, of which the depth was sufficient for vessels to approach close to the quay, and land their cargoes at the very doors of the merchants. But the same evil destiny, which in former times dimmed the glories of Messina, has here exercised its utmost ravages; so that a traveller, who wishes to form a competent idea of the devastation caused by an earthquake, may, after contemplating the melancholy fate of the Palazzata, visit the streets immediately behind. There he will scarcely find a single building entire: the interior of houses and churches, exhibit-

ing all the varieties of ruin, scattered columns, with pictures and ornaments fading in the open air, combine to form a scene which is happily but seldom witnessed. The other parts of the city either suffered less, or, in the lapse of seven years, by the activity of the inhabitants, and the zeal of the governor, have been in a great measure repaired and rebuilt. The next century will, probably, produce a new Palazzata; for the king has ordered an uniformity of architecture to be observed, and his own plans to be executed. Already have three or four of the inhabitants engaged to rebuild their palaces; and in the course of time, as the memory of past disasters fades away, others will probably follow the example.

Many of the churches, which attracted the notice of former travellers, no longer exist. That of Monte Vergine contains some good paintings in fresco, by Palatino, a Sicilian artist, executed in 1737. These evince considerable merit, particularly the Careatides, in chiascuro. The church of St. Gregorio is very rich in marbles and inlaid work, and is adorned with some tolerable pictures, one of which, on the large altar to the right, appeared to me to be by Guercino, or Gennaro. The high altar of the cathedral is a masterpiece of inlaid marble work, and the pulpit was from the hand of the famous Sicilian sculptor,

Gagini. This is an old building of the Norman æra; and the columns are said to have originally belonged to some of the ancient temples. The churches of St. Teresa and St. Maria di Giesù, though small, are neat, and full of marbles.

Numerous statues of marble, bronze, &c. as well as fountains, are dispersed in different parts of the city.

The best points of view are, the summit of the lighthouse, from whence the whole extent of the Palazzata, and the city rising above it, appear to great advantage; the whole castle of the Matta Grifone, now converted into the habitation of monks; and the castle of Gonzaga, commanding a view much more extensive than the other two, and by far the most advantageous and delightful, which the vicinity of the city affords.

During my stay at Messina, I devoted one day to the Faro, or Straits, said to be distant about twelve miles, but I think not above eight; for, with a brisk wind, I went thither and returned in the space of an hour. Of this Faro Virgil has given a description:—

"Ast, ubi digressum Siculæ te admoverit oræ
Ventus, et angusti rarescent claustra Pelori;

Læva tibi tellus, et longo læva petantur
Æquora circuitu: dextrum fuge littus et undas.
Hæc loca, vi quondam et vastâ convulsa ruinâ
(Tantum ævi longinqua valet mutare vetustas)
Dissiluisse ferunt; cum protinus utraque tellus
Una foret; venit medio vi pontus, et undis
Hesperium Siculo latus abscidit; arvaque et urbes
Littore diductas angusto interluit æstu.
Dextrum Scilla latus, lævum implacata Charybdis
Obsidet: atque imo barathri ter gurgite vastos
Sorbet in abruptum fluctus, rursusque sub auras
Erigit alternos, et sidera verberat undâ.
At Scyllam cæcis cohibet spelunca latebris,
Ora exertantem, et naves in saxa trahentem."

When near Sicilian coasts thy bellying sails
At length convey thee with the driving gales;
Pelorus' straits, just op'ning by degrees,
Turn from the right; avoid the shores and seas.
Far to the left thy course in safety keep,
And fetch a mighty circle round the deep.
That realm of old, a ruin huge! was rent,
In length of ages, from the continent;
With force convulsive burst the isle away,
Through the dread op'ning broke the thund'ring sea.
At once the thund'ring sea Sicilia tore,
And sunder'd from the fair Hesperian shore;
And still the neighbouring coasts and towns divides
With scanty channels and contracted tides.
Fierce to the right tremendous Scylla roars;
Charybdis on the left the flood devours:
Thrice swallow'd in her womb subsides the sea,
Deep, deep as hell; and thrice she spouts away
From her black bellowing gulphs, disgorg'd on high,
Waves after waves, that dash the distant sky.

Lodg'd in the darksome caverns' dreadful shade,
High o'er the surges Scylla rears her head;
Grac'd with a virgin's breast and female locks,
She draws the vessels on the pointed rocks.

WARTON, ÆNEID, book iii.

Dryden's translation of the same passage:—

When parted hence, the wind, that ready waits
For Sicily, shall bear you to the straits,
Where proud Pelorus opes a wider way;
Tack to the larboard, and stand off to sea;
Veer starboard sea and land. Th' Italian shore
And fair Sicilia's coast were one, before
An earthquake caus'd the flaw; the roaring tides
The passage broke, that land from land divides;
And, where the lands retir'd, the rushing ocean rides;
Distinguish'd by the straits on either hand,
Now rising cities in long order stand,
And fruitful fields. So much can time invade
The mould'ring work that beauteous nature made.
Far on the right her dogs foul Scylla hides:
Charybdis, roaring, on the left presides,
And in her greedy whirlpool sucks the tides;
Then spouts them from below: with fury driv'n,
The waves mount up, and wash the face of heav'n.
But Scylla from her den, with open jaws,
The sinking vessel in her eddy draws,
Then dashes on the rocks.———————

DRYDEN'S ÆNEID, book iii.

The rocks of Scylla are supposed to have been those near the town, and still bearing the name of Scylla. They were much shaken by the earth-

quake in 1783; and many of the inhabitants, who had taken refuge there, were swept away by a terrible wave, which was probably caused by the fall of a considerable part of the adjoining mountain into the sea. A similar event happened recently, when another portion of the same mountain was detached; but fortunately only two or three people, who were labouring in the neighbouring vineyards, lost their lives.

The vortext of Charybdis is placed at the entrance of the port, not far from the light-house and citadel; where, at certain times, the sea forms violent whirlpools, which engulph every thing that approaches near. When I observed the spot, the water was so perfectly calm, that I could perceive only a slight circular motion on the surface. During the prevalence of the wind, called the Sirocco, these seas, and the entrance into the port, are highly dangerous. To this peculiarity Juvenal alludes:—

Virroni muræna datur, quæ maxima venit
Gurgite de Siculo; nam dùm se continet Auster
Dum sedet, et siccat madidas in carcere pennas;
Contemnunt mediam temeraria lina Charybdim.

On examining with attention the opposite coasts of Sicily and Calabria, which are separated by a channel scarcely three miles wide, I could not

discover the slightest indication, that they had once been united. Had the straits been formed of rocks, corresponding in shape and strata, we might have had plausible reasons to infer, that a separation had taken place by some convulsion of nature; but, on the contrary, the appearance of the two coasts is totally different. That of Calabria is composed of steep and perpendicular rocks and mountains; that of Sicily is a flat plain, of some extent, bounded by mountains at a distance. One fact, indeed, is certain. Instead of an increase in the width of the straits, the land on the point of the promontory, within the memory of man, has gained on the sea, by the constant accumulation of sand, in so narrow a channel. In these seas the constant flux and reflux, joined with contrary winds, render the passage occasionally dangerous; but this danger in no degree corresponds with the descriptions of the classic writers, who have painted Scylla and Charybdis in the most glowing and terrific colours.

While I was examining the situation of this strait, enjoying the beautiful and classic scene before my eyes, and musing on the terrors with which it had been invested by the magic of poetry, a large vessel, under full sail, glided through the centre of the passage, defying Scylla, and proceeded to encounter the terrors of Charybdis. All my reveries vanished: and I contemplated with exultation

so common, yet so striking, a proof of the improvement of science, and progress of naval knowledge.

This promontory, now called *Capo di Faro*, from the light-house placed here for the direction of mariners, was formerly termed Pelorum, from a pilot of Hannibal.

"Causa nominis Pelorus gubernator, ab Annibale ibidem conditus; quem idem vir, profugus ex Africâ, ac per ea loca Syriam petens, quia procul intuenti videbantur continua esse littora, et non pervium pelagus, proditum se arbitratus, occiderat."

But Hannibal, on finding afterwards that the pilot was innocent, erected a statue to his memory.

"Igitur angusti atque æstuosi maris alto e tumulo speculatrix, statua tàm memoriæ Pelori, quàm Punicæ temeritatis ultrà citràque navigantium oculis expositum indicium est."

This headland is thus described as one of the three promontories of Sicily:—

Sicaniam tribus hæc excurrit in æquora linguis,
E quibus imbriferos versa est Pachynos ad Austros;

Mollibus expositum Zephyris Lilybæon ad Arctos,
Æquoris expertes spectat Boreamque Peloros.

The lakes, also, on this promontory, mentioned by classic writers, still exist.

I was informed, that modern sailors had been led into the same misapprehension as Hannibal: on approaching these straits, and perceiving no opening, they are said to have changed their course, and steered around the other coast of Sicily.

I dined at the Faro with the priest of the place, Don Salvador, a most hospitable and cheerful old man: The voyage to the Faro is pleasant. In the centre of the passage it appears like a spacious lake, surrounded by lofty mountains. Messina, situated on its bank, is a striking object; and the opposite coast is enlivened with the towns of Reggio, Scylla, and Bagnara. The governor, Don Giovanni Danero, is a plain unaffected man, universally esteemed, and distinguished by his zeal for the advantage of the city entrusted to his superintendance. His table is always open to those travellers who are recommended to him, and I myself, being favoured with a letter from one of his near relations, have to thank him for every possible attention and civility. As the fears or mischiefs

of the earthquake are not yet obviated, a considerable portion of the inhabitants still dwell in wooden barracks.

Friday, April 23. Left Messina, and proceeded across the mountains to Milazzo. Immediately on quitting the suburbs, I began to climb a steep acclivity; but the goodness of the road, and the numberless delightful points of view which were constantly in my sight, or rather behind me, rendered me insensible of the ascent. The bay of Messina, shut in and contracted by the mountains on each side, as well as by the opposite coast of Calabria, presented a striking resemblance to some of the larger lakes in Switzerland. On reaching the summit, I was suddenly and unexpectedly surprised with one of the most enchanting prospects which nature ever offered to the eye of man. For a considerable time I had dwelt with equal pleasure and regret on the noble view I left behind, which my ascent rendered gradually more perfect; but when on the highest point, another, equally fine and extensive, expanded itself on the opposite side. To be appreciated, it must be seen; for words alone cannot convey an idea of its transcendant beauties. Beneath was the port of Messina, and part of the city; in front, the opposite coast, and snowy mountains of Calabria; the town of Reggio, and its coast, extending to the right; and to the

left, the straits, with Bagnara, and the town and rocks of Scylla. Such were the scenes I left behind. Before me was a large extent of coast, with Lipari and its dependant islands, the smoking Stromboli, the town of Milazzo, and the singular strip of land on which it is built; and in the foreground, a long range of mountains, with the ruins of a solitary castle, crowning one of their most elevated summits.

For some time I continued descending by a good road, which at length ceased. My track then conducted me for some way in the bed, or on the stony bank of a river; which, after heavy rains, must be dangerous, if not impassable. It afterwards led me into a plain, abounding in fig, mulberry, and other fruit trees. Approaching nearer the sea the plain widens, and the land is cultivated with corn. The mountains on the left, sprinkled with scattered villages, and surmounted with the snowy summit of Ætna, present a most picturesque appearance.

The Padre Regente of the Carmelites at Milazzo, to whom I sent my letter of recommendation, came to meet me with two carriages, and conducted me to his convent.

I profited by the fineness of the weather to

visit the only object of curiosity in the modern town of Milazzo. I mean the Castle, which is situated on a lofty eminence, and commands a most delightful view on all sides, comprising the Faro of Messina, the coast of Patti, Cefalu, and the Lipari islands. Great part of the city originally stood on this hill; but has been since removed into the plain, and no building, except the dome, remains. The castle, like most of those in Sicily, is neglected, and unprovided either with men or arms.

Milazzo is small, and contains a few inhabitants. Its ancient name was Mylæ; and, according to Strabo, it was founded by the Zanclæi, or inhabitants of Zancle, now Messina. Its territory and plain abound in fruits, and its wines are much esteemed. The town is built on a long and narrow neck of land, extending into the sea. Frederic the Second endeavoured to separate it from the *terra firma* by large walls and ditches, the remains of which are still visible.

Saturday, April 24. Left Milazzo and its fruitful plain, and continued my journey along the coast, towards Patti. At Oliveri I found a steep pass across the mountain, which is well clothed with oaks and other forest trees; and several picturesque views of the Lipari islands presented

themselves in my descent. I had not time to visit the remains of the ancient city of Tyndaris, situated on the summit of the mountain, near the sanctuary called Sta. Maria di Tyndaro; but proceeding down to the plain, continued my way to Patti, a town, prettily built, on an eminence, under lofty mountains, and near the *Fiume di Patti*, the Timethus of antiquity. The origin of this place is not very remote, as I do not find its name in any of the classic authors. It may be dated in 1094, when the present cathedral, dedicated to St. Bartholomew, was erected by Conte Ruggieri. The tomb of his Countess Adelaide, mother of King Ruggieri, and a well-wrought cross, of the same date, are seen in the church: as, also, a marble altar, decorated with some fine pieces of agate, numerous relics, &c. &c. The bishop's palace adjoins the cathedral, and stands in the most elevated part of the city.

The views about Patti are highly pleasing. The hills are varied, the ground well cultivated, and the horizon towards the sea agreeably broken by the Lipari islands; of which I enjoyed a front view from the window of my apartment, at the convent of the Padri Conventuali di S. Francesco.

I found the road from Milazzo good, except

over the mountain of Oliveri, where the ascent and descent were rough and steep. During the first part of the journey, I observed many scattered villages among the mountains; on the left, Mount Ætna, rearing its smoking, and at the same time snowy, summit far above them all; and opposite to it, the ever-burning Stromboli. Between these two volcanos the contrast is striking: one towering amidst a mass of mountains, the other raising its conical form out of the sea; yet both breathing the same fiery element. I crossed the beds of many wide and rapid torrents, but, from the cessation of rain for some days, I experienced no delay or impediment.

Sunday, April 25. I returned to the mountain of Oliveri to visit the remains of Tyndaris, which I had passed yesterday. At present the sanctuary of Sta. Maria, the only building on the summit, marks the situation of this ancient city. Fazellus observes, "Condita fuit a Laconibus indito ei a Tyndaro patre Ledæ, matris Castoris et Pollucis nomine; de quo Silius Italicus:—

. . . . . geminoque Lacone
Tyndarus attollens sese, adfuit.

Pliny states that half this city fell down into the sea, probably on the side where a deep and

and steep precipice seems to mark the catastrophe. Cicero, in his oration against Verres, calls it, "nobilissimam et commeatu fæcundam ac refertam, et bello maritimo satis accommodam." It formerly contained a temple, dedicated to Mercury, and boasted of a much revered statue, which was carried away by the Carthaginians; but on the destruction of Carthage, restored to the city by Scipio the Younger. Fazellus adds, "Tyndaritani eo Africani beneficio moti, Romanorum fœdus deinceps inviolatum, cultumque servarunt." This statue was afterwards stolen by Verres, the universal plunderer of Sicily; and is thus apostrophised by Cicero, in his celebrated oration: "Teque Mercuri, quem Verres in vittâ et in privatâ palestrâ posuit, P. Africanus in urbe sociorum, et in gymnasio Tyndaritorum, juventutis illorum custodem et præsidem voluit esse, imploro atque obtestor."

Of this ancient city sufficient vestiges are left to reward the labour of every curious investigator. A very considerable part of the walls still remains, wonderfully well built, of large oblong stones, without cement. Of the theatre, the entire front, and part of the walls adjoining the scene, are still extant. Near it is another magnificent structure, with various arches, niches, and pilasters, and unlike any other building that I have seen in Sicily. Its destination I cannot guess, unless it was part

of the Gymnasium, commemorated by Cicero. I observed many other foundations and remains of buildings, a mosaic pavement, &c; cisterns, fragments of columns, numerous medals, cameos, and intaglios, have been found here; and broken pieces of Græco-Siculo vases, scattered over the site of the city, attest its antiquity. In the court-yard of the sanctuary is the leg of a colossal figure, resting on a trunk, the headless body of a colossal figure, and the fragments of other statues. Without the door is a large piece of marble cornice.

I was led to a grotto, on the declivity of the mountain, supposing, from the description of the peasants, that it was antique; but I found it to be the work of nature, and by no means worth the trouble of the descent.

Fazellus mentions the ruins of a temple of Jupiter, on a neighbouring mountain, which still bears the appellation of *Monte Giove*. The badness of the weather, however, prevented me from visiting the spot. I am surprised that so accurate an observer should not have noticed either the theatre, or the other curious building, with arches and pilasters, which, from its construction with massive stones, bears a striking character of high antiquity.

In the evening I returned to Patti, amidst a

violent storm of wind, rain, thunder, and lightning.

Monday, April 26. Left Patti, and proceeded along the coast as far as *Capo Calava*, passing through the *marina* of Patti, where an extensive pottery trade is carried on; and leaving, on the left, the villages of Librozzi and Giojosa, the latter of which seems elevated amidst the clouds, and is famous for its dried figs. The ascent is rather steep, and for some time continues winding on the verge of the mountains. I then again descended to the beach, and followed a narrow track between the mountains and the sea, under the rocks, through one of which is a passage, either cut for travellers, or hollowed by the hand of nature. Passing through the petty village of Brolo, I reached the ascent and descent of Capo Orlando, where Fazellus places the very ancient city of Agathyrnum, contrary to the opinion of Cluverius, who fixes its site near the town of St. Marco. On descending from the mountains of Capo Orlando, I entered a fertile plain, cultivated with corn, fruit, &c.; and observed the towns of St. Marco, Militello, &c. on the left. I crossed several rivers, over one of which is a long bridge. The roads are tolerably good, considering the mountainous nature of the country. On the coast are several tunny fisheries, and the mulberry trees still continue to appear. The superior of the

Franciscan convent, at Militello, to whom I had a letter of recommendation, procured me a lodging in the prince of Militello's palace, at Sta. Agata, in order to spare me the fatigue of ascending to the convent.

Tuesday, April 27. On leaving Sta. Agata, my host honoured me with a salute from the cannon of the castle, where I lodged. After quitting the plain of Militello, I found much wild and uncultivated ground, for the mountains approach too near to the sea to leave space for cultivation. I traversed several rivers; and the road is flat, but stony. In less than six hours I arrived at St. Stefano, a small town pleasantly situated on an eminence, at a short distance from the sea. This was the only place to which I did not bring a letter of recommendation: but my *campiere* speedily found me an apartment at the house belonging to the lord of the manor and territory. Between Sta. Agata and St. Stefano, geographers place the cities of Aluntium and Calacte.

Wednesday, April 28. After proceeding for a short time along the sea coast, and passing the *Castello di Tusa*, the supposed site of Alæsa, I penetrated into the mountains, which are clothed with heath, myrtles, cistus, ginestra, citisus, &c. Reaching Cefalù, I lodged at an old convent of

Franciscans, built by St. Antonio di Padua. In my way I crossed many rivers, and found the roads the worst of any since I quitted Messina. The tracks were so narrow in many places, and run so near the edge of steep precipices, that we were continually in danger; but fortunately no accident occurred, either to men or beasts. On the mountains, near Cefalù, are very extensive plantations of manna; and the produce is reckoned the best in the whole island.

The accounts of the cities formerly existing on the coast, between Tyndaro and Cefalù, seemed so very erroneous, and the remains of these places so very trifling, that I was not tempted to make inquiries on the subject. Fazellus and Cluverius differ widely in opinion with regard to their situation.

Fazellus thus places them.	Cluverius.
Aluntium, near St. Fratello.	The same.
Agathyrnum, at Capo Orlando.	St. Marco.
Calata, ... St. Marco.	Caronia.
Alæsa, ... Caronia.	Castello di Tusa.

The learned antiquary, the Prince of Torremuzza, in his work on the subject, agrees with Cluverius in placing Alæsa at Castello di Tusa.

Thursday, April 29. The ancient name of Cefalù was Cephalædis, or Cephalædium. Its origin is very remote, and it is mentioned by many of the classic writers. The following is the account given of it by Fazellus:—

"Cephalædis, nomen à Cephale κεφαλη (quod caput est Latinis) nacta vel ob id, quod ad verticem præruptæ rupis, ac promontorii speciem habentis, condita fuit, ubi arx est naturâ munitissima, et urbs ipsa jacens ambitus m. ferme p. ubi quoque, et templi ingentis diruti Doricâ formâ olim conditi clara visuntur monumenta. Quis verò eam et quo tempore condiderit, ex auctoribus quòrum opera ego quidem legi, incompertum habeo."

The ancient city was, therefore, situated on the summit of this lofty rock, projecting into the sea. Being difficult of access, and in a state of decay, it was removed into the plain by King Ruggieri, to grace the magnificent temple which he erected on this spot. Sailing from Naples to Sicily, with three vessels, he was overtaken by a dreadful tempest in the gulf of Salerno, and tossed for two days in the waves. In the midst of the peril, he vowed to build a temple on the first shore to which he should be driven, in honour of the Saviour of the World. He at length reached Cefalù, and here fulfilled his vow, by raising the structure, which

now forms the cathedral. Like that at Monreale, and others of the same æra, it is in the Norman style of architecture. The choir is adorned with mosaics, and the vaulting supported by many fine columns, of different species of marble, which, probably, originally belonged to some heathen temple. The cloister is in the true style of the time; and the portico deserves notice, from the massive size of the stones with which it is built, particularly one on the right side, the largest I have ever seen in any fabric, ancient or modern.

Early in the morning I ascended the mountain in search of the antiquities described by Fazellus. I observed the remains of a Saracen castle; but the profuse dew, and the quantity of growing corn, prevented me from reaching the summit. Half way up are the remains of an old structure, which is singular in its formation, built of large and irregular stones, and with three doorways, cornice, and pilasters. I have not heard that any one has ascertained its destination; though it appeared to me not of a Greek or Roman origin, but erected rather after the decline of architecture. I observed, also, a cistern of oval form, excavated in the rock, and resembling one which I found in the sepulchre of Atratinus, near Gaeta. These are the only antiquities which I noticed on the mountain; the others, if any

such exist, must be on the more elevated part, which, from the height of the corn, I could not explore. Not far from Cefalù, and in the midst of the mountains, is a celebrated convent of Capucins, called Gibelmanna, which I did not visit. The ancient city, fortified by natural rocks and precipices, must have been almost impregnable; the modern city and episcopal palace are immediately under the site of the ancient.

Left Cefalù, and in six hours arrived at Termine. The territory of the former principality produces manna and olives; but on entering that belonging to the latter, the objects of cultivation change, and extensive corn fields succeed. On approaching Termine, vineyards, also, appear. I crossed two large rivers, the *Fiume grande*, or the ancient *Himera Septentrionalis;* on the banks of which the city of Himera was situated; and the *Fiume torto.* On the left is the lofty mountain of St. Calogero.

Friday, April 30. Not far distant from Himera were the *Thermæ Himerenses*, which, after the destruction of that city, became more populous and flourishing. Warm springs, of various qualities, still used at Termine, point out that place as the site of the ancient *Thermæ.* The opinion formerly

entertained of these springs is thus recorded by Diodorus:—

"Littus hujus insulæ peragrante Hercule, calidas a nymphis balneas fabulantur apertas fuisse, quibus contractam ex itinere lassitudinem adlevaret. Binæ quum sint, alteræ Himerenses Egestanæ alteræ, a suis locis dictæ sunt."

A small portion of the building bears the marks of antiquity; though in various parts of the modern city there are scattered remnants of former magnificence. In the *Palazzo publico* are several inscriptions with representations of the medals of the ancient Himera, in marble. These inscriptions have been copied, and published by the Prince of Torremuzza in his collection. On the outside of the palace is an antique statue, said to be that of Stenius, whose exploits are painted in one of the apartments within. This magistrate, a native of the place, is celebrated for his resolution; and particularly for his opposition to Pompey during the civil wars of Sylla and Marius, as well as to the prætor Verres, whom he prevented from plundering this city of its statues, and other works of art.

"Hic ille est Sthenius, qui solus in Sicilia

(quod Siculus nemo, sed ne quidem Sicilia tota potuit) Verri Romanorum prætori tanto animi robore obstitit, ut ex hoc oppido, nullum signum, nullum ornamentum, nihil ex sacro, nihil ex publico, ubi complura erant præclara, et ab illo concupita, unquam attigerit."

On the outside wall of the adjoining Madre Chiesa is a fine fragment of Corinthian cornice. The entrance to the castle bears an old Saracenic inscription. The platform of this fortress commands a delightful and extensive view. Portions of granite and other marble columns are dispersed about the city.

Having satisfied my curiosity at Termine, I proceeded to Palermo. A good road, a fine bridge over the adjoining river, and a tolerable inn where I had taken up my quarters, were objects almost unknown to me, during the two months I had been travelling in the island; and for a moment transported me, in idea, to a country more adorned and civilized. The territory adjoining Termine exhibits a pleasant appearance, from the mixture of corn fields, vineyards, orange, and olive trees, and the number of casinos sprinkled over the declivities of the mountains. The principal part of the road leading to the Bagaria is so excellent that it would do credit to any country. It runs

chiefly under the mountains, close to the sea beach, and passes through Trabbia, belonging to my friend, the Prince of the same name. Approaching the Bagaria, the soil becomes sandy, and continues so to Palermo. I left the beach at Solanto, which place I shall have occasion to mention hereafter. At the Bagaria, I dined with a friend; and in the evening slept in my own habitation at Palermo, after an absence of two months, and a journey of above six hundred miles; during which I made a complete circuit of the island, except at the points of Capo Passaro and Capo Peloro. I experienced none of those dangers and inconveniences, which have been so warmly described by many Sicilian writers; and which I consider as

> "Tales told by an idiot, full of sound and fury,
> Signifying nothing."

BAGARIA, SOLANTO, &c

THE interval between my first and second tour was spent in *villeggiatura*, at the Bagaria. This place, distant nine miles from Palermo, is much frequented by the nobility of Palermo, during the month of May, from the goodness of the air, its amusements, particularly quail shooting, its pleasing situation, and commodious distance from the capital. But after that period the rays of the sun, reflected from the sandy soil, become troublesome and oppressive. Among the numerous villas which distinguish this spot, two have particularly attracted the notice of travellers, Valguernara and Palagonia: the former from its charming situation, the latter from the absurdities with which it is marked.

The villa Valguernara is built on the highest part of the Bagaria, an eminence commanding, on

one side, the extensive view of the sea coast towards Termine, Cefalù, the Lipari islands, &c.; and, on the other, a prospect equally beautiful, of the bay and city of Palermo, Monte Pelegrino, &c. No dwelling was ever more happily placed, and I believe no other in Europe commands a view equivalent in beauty and effect. The gardens are extensive; the villa is in a tolerably good style of architecture; and the whole is maintained in the most perfect repair and order, by the old Princess of Valguernara.

The villa of the Prince of Palagonia is equally remarkable for absurdity, novelty, and singularity. It has been so often described, that I shall say little on the subject; but if not the first, I may, perhaps, be the last, to whom it may furnish a theme; for these monstrous creatures are now in the last stage of their short and memorable existence. Future ages may, indeed, doubt whether they ever existed, except in an heated and extravagant imagination. A long avenue, with a balustrade on each side, is adorned, if I may use the term, with groupes of the strangest shapes, human and brutal, as well as a mixture of the two, which the brain of a poet, or perhaps of a madman, ever conceived. The metamorphoses of Ovid are here multiplied and surpassed. The court-yard before the palace, the entrance gates,

fountains, and the palace itself, even the chapel, and apartments within, are all decorated in the same taste. The predecessor of the present owner, on being questioned concerning the original ideas of such monsters, replied, " Non sapete che il Fiume Nilo, in Egitto, quando calano le acque, lascia delle ove in abbondanza, quali con la forza del sole rigenerano e nascono, e producono quelli stessi animali, che vedete qui rappresentati?" " Do you not know, that when the waters of the Nile, in Egypt, subside, they leave abundance of eggs, which, regenerated and animated by the power of the sun, produce those very animals that you see represented here?" At another time this Prince sent for an *abate* from Palermo, who was not highly favoured by nature in regard to features. He entertained him with some trivial discourse, while a painter secretly drew his portrait; which was soon afterwards exalted to an honourable post, amidst the groupes of men and monsters.

The wayward fancies of this singular character gave birth to an ingenious sonnet, by the modern Anacreon, and Sicilian poet, Meli:—

" Giove guardau da la sua reggia immensa
La bella Villa oa la Bagaria,
Unni l'arte impetrisci, eterna, e addensa
L'abborti di bizarra fantasia.

Vigu, dissi, la mia insufficiensa;
Mostri, n'escogitai, quantu putià;
Ma duvi terminau la mia putensa
Dda stissu incominciau Palagonia."

Jove looked down from his lofty palace
On the beautiful villa of the Bagaria,
Where art hath petrified, eternised, and condensed,
The abortions of a whimsical imagination.
Behold, said he, my insufficiency;
I invented as many monsters as I was able,
But where my power ended,
There began that of Palagonia.

When I first visited the Bagaria, soon after my arrival in Sicily, the war with these Centaurs and Lapithæ was not begun. In the course, however, of three months, the balustrade was stripped of a great part of its grotesque decorations; and their total destruction will shortly be completed. The present owner, who has a considerable number of marble vases, has ranged them on the balustrade, in the place of the hideous busts which had graced it before; but these being in a taste equally grotesque, and diminutive in their proportions for the posts they occupy, the general view is not much improved by the alteration. Orange trees are to be planted on the high pedestals, which supported the groupes of figures. The chapel is already destroyed, and a great part of the house itself modernised. The hall is still

ornamented with a ceiling of looking glass, and columns or pilasters of china! Numerous other extravagancies still exist, which are destined to undergo a total change. The former owner spent an extensive fortune, and burthened his family with a load of debt, in the creation of a world of monsters and follies: his heir employs his money in destroying them. "Dirnit, ædificat, mutat quadrata rotundis;" and in obliterating the idle fancies of his predecessor, displays his ignorance and defective taste by the style of his amendments. The whimsies which have been described, possessed novelty, and were, at least, the object of general notice; and I doubt whether the present substitutes will not awaken a sentiment of regret for their loss.

The country surrounding the Bagaria has been considerably improved, and its barren surface much clothed, within the course of a few years. Few of the villas evince any taste in architecture; being overloaded with ornaments, in the Sicilian style. I except only that of the Duca di Villarosa, built according to a plan designed at Rome, with an open portico; but for several years it has remained in an unfinished state.

On the summit of Mount Catalfano, at a very short distance from the Bagaria, are the remains

of an ancient city called Solus, Σολος, or Soluntum, the origin of which must have been remote, because it is mentioned by Thucydides, as inhabited by the Phœnicians:—

"Phœnices prætereà circà omnem habitabant Siciliam. At postquam permulti Græcorum illuc cum navibus trajecerunt: relictis plerisque, Motyam ac Soluntem et Panormum finitima Elymis oppida, sedibus ibi positis unà incoluerunt."

A description of its remains, in modern times, is given by Fazellus:—

"Mons Gerbinus à Panormo m. p. 12 distans, sequitur, quem mare adlambit, et mons alius, undique præcisus et contiguus, ad cujus verticem Soluntum, urbs vetustissima, hodiè prorsus jacens cernitur, cujus mœnia circumquaque jacentia, ac templorum ædiumque privatarum vestigia, columnæ prætereà prostratæ, ac cisternæ, quæ huc usque visuntur, ejus præteritam ostendunt claritatem. Erat autem ambitus passuum suprà mille, et naturali situ communita, unicum habens aditum et adscensu perdifficilem. Subest ei ejusdem nominis hodiè arx, frumenti emporium, portum habens navium capacissimum, ubi et thynnorum præclarus est piscatus."

The mountain being uninhabited, and of difficult access, most of the remains mentioned by Fazellus still exist. But I am surprised he should have omitted to notice the traces of two ancient roads, which led up to the city, on the south-eastern aspect. After the researches which I made last autumn on the Via Appia, these were peculiarly interesting; because, from the similarity in their mode of construction, I was convinced that Appius Claudius was not the first inventor of this mode of forming roads; there being every reason to conclude that the two roads leading to Soluntum were of far anterior date. I ascended by one of these roads on horseback, and descended by the other. I found the remains of two temples, of Doric architecture, though of small proportions. Of one all the ornamental parts are left, such as the frieze, cornice, &c.; and on the frieze is the representation of a lion's head. I also traced the walls, aqueducts, cisterns, and private dwellings. In the plain beneath, many sepulchres have been discovered, the most perfect of which are near the villa belonging to the Prince of Torremuzza, and under his care. From the summit, where the original city stood, the view is delightful and extensive.

Beneath are the two tunny fisheries of St. Elia and Solanto. I visited the last, and was highly

gratified with the operation, which merits the notice of every traveller.

The passage of quails, for which this place is celebrated, begins from the 20th of April to the 20th of May, and the number depends on the winds which prevail. That called *maestrale* is the most favourable. As all the peasantry have a right to carry arms, the number of shooters is great, and in general they are much more expert than those of our own country, from their great practice in this sporting season.

During the *villeggiatura* I spent my time very agreeably. I lived with my friend, the Prince of Trabbia, who kept open house for a large company every day; and in the evening our *conversazione* was held at the residence of Prince Palagonia. The viceroy thrice dined with us. Four horse-races, two at the Ficarazze, and two at the Bagaria, varied the circle of our amusements.

SICILIAN ITINERARY.

Names of Places.	Miles.	Place of Lodging.
Palermo to Cinisi	24	Convent of Benedictines.
Alcamo . . .	18	At the house of Signor Don Antonio Mangione.
Segeste . . .	9	Masseria del Barone Lamia.
Trapani . . .	22	A very indifferent inn.
Marsala . . .	18	Barone d'Anna.
Mazzara . . .	14	In a private house, bad.
Campo Bello .	8	Masseria del Principe Villarosata.
Marinella of Castel Vetrano	10	Casino del Segreto Paola.
Castel Vetrano .	7	Casa del Segreto Paola.
Memfri . . .	14	Casa del Segreto.
Sciacca . . .	10	Convent of Franciscans.
Cattolica . . .	24	At the house of Barone Berzellino.
Girgenti . . .	18	Convent of Capucins.

Names of Places.	Miles.	Place of Lodging.
Palma . . .	14	Private house.
Alicata . . .	12	Convent of Franciscans.
Terranova . .	18	Don Cesare Vari, Segreto.
Vittoria* . . .	24	Don Santo Giudice, Segreto.
Modica† . . .	24	Don Giuseppe Montalbano, Segreto.
Ispica	5	
Noto	24	Convent of Padri Conventuali.
Siracusa . . .	22	Convent of Capucins.
Lentini . . .	24	Convent of Padri Conventuali.
Catania . . .	18	Locanda del Leofante, good.
Le Giarre . .	18	A tolerable little inn.
Taormina . .	12	Convent of Capucins.
Fiume di Nisi .	12	A small inn.
Messina . . .	18	Albergo della Fenice, good.
Milazzo . . .	24	Convent of Carmelites.
Patti	23	Convent of Padri Conventuali.
Sta. Agata . .	30	Casa del Principe di Militello.

* To Vittoria by the shortest road is only eighteen miles.

† To Modica the nearest road is only sixteen miles; but to each place I was obliged to make a long circuit, on account of the overflow of rivers by the heavy rains.

Names of Places.	Miles.	Place of Lodging.
St. Stefano . .	21	Casa del Principe.
Cefalù . . .	24	Convent of the Padri Conventuali.
Termine . . .		A tolerable good inn.
Palermo . . .	24	
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JOURNAL

OF

A SECOND TOUR

THROUGH THE ISLANDS OF

SICILY AND MALTA.

SICILY AND MALTA.

FROM PALERMO TO TERMINE, PIAZZA, CALTAGIRONE AND VITTORIA.

SUNDAY, May 30. I quitted the Bagaria, accompanied by a large party of friends. We went by sea in the Prince of Trabbia's felucca, and enjoyed a most pleasant voyage to Trabbia. After spending an agreeable day with my friends there, and witnessing the celebration of the annual feast and horse races, I reluctantly left their society, and took a contrary direction to Termine, where I slept. I was truly fortunate in arriving at the inn during the absence of the landlord, who is by far the most prating, officious, and ignorant host, that ever received a traveller under his roof.

Monday, May 31. Left Termine at break of day, and in six hours and a half reached Caltavo-

turo. After journeying a little way on the beach, I turned to the right, and skirted the base of the lofty mountain of St. Calogero. On crossing the *Fiume torto*, the mode of cultivation changes. An open country, partly corn land, and partly untilled, succeeds to the vineyards, and plantations of fruit-trees, sumach, &c. which adorn the declivity and base of Mount Calogero. Passed a small village, called *Fundaco nuovo*, and proceeded through the same open country, with continued ascents and descents, till I reached Caltavoturo. In the way, I traversed the *Fiume grande*, now not deserving that appellation. Bridges are thrown over this stream, and the *Fiume torto*.

In the vicinity of Caltavoturo, nature appears on the grandest and most majestic scale. The lofty mountains of the Madonie, formerly the Nebrodes, the rocks near Caltavoturo, with a ruined castle, and the opposite fortress of Sclafani, crowning a rugged pinnacle, form several wild and romantic points of view, unadorned with the productions of art, or the beauties of foliage; and suited to those who admire nature in every shape, in her horrors as well as in her graces. On the summit of a steep rock, overlooking the present town, are the remains of an old habitation, with the church and castle. The latter, together with the neighbouring castle of Sclafani, were built by

the Saracens. I found the roads in many parts rough and stony, with continual ascents and descents; and narrow paths, apparently impracticable in winter. The village bears a wretched appearance, and affords no fit lodging for a traveller, except in a private house, or in one of the two Convents of the Padri Reformati and Agostiniani.

Tuesday, June 1. As soon as the hard rain ceased, I quitted Caltavoturo, and proceeded to Alimena, where I arrived in five hours and a half. The face of nature here changes, and becomes less horrid and majestic than on the other side of Caltavoturo. An open corn and grass country succeeds, and continues to Alimena. Except the towns of Polizzi and Petralias, at a considerable distance to the left, I scarcely saw a single habitation, in this long stage of eighteen miles. The soil appears deep and fertile, and much land lies waste, for want of population. The Segreto at Alimena, to whom I carried a letter of recommendation from his mistress the Principessa di Belvedere, procured me a decent lodging in a private house.

Alimena is a village, and smaller than Caltavoturo, situated on an eminence, in the midst of an open corn country. It contains one convent, Sta. Maria di Gesù, where a traveller might find

a lodging. The roads are tolerable; and the soil a stiff clay.

Wednesday, June 2. Left Alimena, and proceeded towards Castrogiovanni, which I reached in five hours. The same open corn country, totally bare of trees, continues; and I may add, the same want of inhabitants and habitations. The mountains are scattered in wild confusion; but the soil is so good, that many of them are cultivated, and all are capable of cultivation to their very summits. From the apparent scantiness of men, cattle, and habitations, a much greater proportion of the soil is tilled, than I should have expected. At a distance, on the right, is the village of Villarosa; and at a much greater distance, to the left, the town of Leonforte, situated on the declivity of a mountain.

Approaching Calascibetta, the country is thinly sprinkled with a new forest and fruit trees; and adjoining the town itself is a wood of oaks and chesnuts. It is situated on the summit of a lofty rock, and exhibits a melancholy and dismal appearance. The descent from hence, as well as the ascent to the elevated town of Castrogiovanni, are steep, rugged, and narrow.

Not far from Alimena is a mountain of fine

rock salt, resembling in colour the whitest marble, and in transparency the finest crystal. Further on I crossed the river, which rises near the mountains of Madonie, and empties itself into the sea close to Alicata. It there bears the name of *Fiume salso*, and bore anciently that of *Hymera Meridionalis*.

The modern town of Castrogiovanni is the representative of the once celebrated Enna, the darling retreat of the goddesses Ceres and Proserpine, Diana and Minerva; and worthy of their preference, by its fertile soil, salubrious air, and its pleasant groves, fountains, and lakes, on the borders of which nature had lavished all her sweets and flowery stores. From its exalted situation it obtained the epithet of impregnable, as we learn from Livy:—

"Enna, in excelso loco ac prærupto, undique sita, cùm loco inexpugnabilis erat, tùm præsidium in arce validum habebat."

According to some authors it was built by the Syracusans, under the direction of Enno, from whom it is said to have derived its name; but I am inclined to believe its origin more remote. It has received due notice from the classic writers, both poets and historians, chiefly from the fabulous

incident of the rape of Proserpine, which is related to have occurred on the bank of a neighbouring lake. The temple of Ceres, probably situated on the same rock where the castle now stands, was held in the highest veneration, as the real residence of the goddess.

"Tanta enim erat auctoribus et vetustas illius religionis, ut quum illuc irent, non ad ædem Cereris, sed ad ipsam Cererem, profiscisci viderentur."

Here was preserved the celebrated image of the goddess, which was seized by the universal plunderer Verres, and which is thus described by Cicero:—

"Simulacrum Cereris Ennæ, ex suâ sede ac domo, sustulit, quod erat tale, un homines quum viderent, aut ipsam videre se Cererem, aut effigiem Cereris, non humanâ manu factam, sed cœlo delapsam, arbitrarentur."

Neither of this temple, nor of any other antique building, did I discover the slightest trace. An inhabitant of the place, indeed, pointed out to me what he considered as the ruin of this famous structure, with its prostrate columns, within the precincts of the castle; but the work was evidently

of the same date with the castle, and of Saracen or Norman origin. The object which pleased me most was an old tower, of octangular shape, called *Torre Eliana*. It appeared to be a work of the Saracens, and in their best style. Beneath is a vaulted room, with pointed arches; and above, another: but the communication between them, by means of a well-constructed stair-case, is now rendered impracticable from the decay of some of the steps. This tower is situated on an eminence, between the convents of the Padri Reformati and Capucini. Here, from the description of Diodorus and Cicero, and the present appearance of the ground, I should place the famous field of Enna, of which Diodorus has commemorated the peculiarities:

"Est pratum illud in summo dorso planum et irriguum, circum verò circà altum et undique præruptum; putaturque in medio totius insulæ situm esse; unde et Siciliæ umbilicus à nonnullis vocatur."

This *umbilicus* cannot be better placed, than on the spot where now stands a cross, in the garden belonging to the convent of the Padri Riformati. From hence is the most noble and extensive view I have hitherto seen in Sicily, and embracing a great part of the island. According to vulgar

tradition, the temple of Proserpine was built on this spot; and Ceres came hither from her temple, which stood on the opposite side of the city, to pay an annual visit to her daughter. A similar custom prevails under the Christian dispensation; for the Madonna is removed from the Chiesa Madre to that of the Reformati every year, and makes an annual stay of fifteen days; during which time a great concourse of people assembles, and continual feastings are held on this plain.

The spot on which the convent stands is called Monte Salvo. Castrogiovanni bears a melancholy appearance; most of the buildings are old and many in a shattered and dilapidated condition. The extent of the plain is great, but the population does not exceed ten thousand souls. I deemed myself transported into a new climate. I left the summer at Termine, and here I found the winter; for, during the greater part of my residence, the place was enveloped in clouds. The convents and monasteries are numerous, amounting to no less than eight of each.

Thursday, June 3. I quitted my convent and worthy hosts, the Franciscans, who treated me with the utmost hospitality, and proceeded towards Piazza, where I arrived in five hours and a half. The same kind of open country, producing corn

and grass, continued, and the same scantiness of population. I observed scarcely a single dwelling; and had I not seen the traces of human industry, I should have supposed the whole country to be uninhabited.

About five miles from Castrogiovanni, I passed the lake, on the borders of which

> Proserpine gathering flowers.
> Herself a fairer flow'r, by gloomy Dis
> Was gather'd.

It is thus described by Ovid:—

> Haud procùl Hennæis lacus est à mœnibus altæ
> Nomine Pergus aquæ. Non illo plura Caystros
> Carmina cygnorum lubentibus audit in undis.
> Silva coronat aquas, cingens latus omne, suisque
> Frondibus ut velo, Phœbeos submovet ictus.
> Frigora dant rami, Tyrios humus humida flores.
> Perpetuum ver est: quo dùm Proserpina luco
> Ludit, et aut violas, aut candida lilia carpit:
> Dumque puellari studio calathosque sinumque
> Implet, et æquales certat superare legendo;
> Penè simùl visa est, dilectaque, raptaque Diti:
> Usque adeo properatur amor.

The poet thus traces the course of the ravisher:—

> Perque lacus altos, et olentia sulfure fertur
> Stagna Palicorum ruptâ ferventia terrâ;
> Et quâ Bacchiadæ, bimari gens orta Corintho,
> Inter inæquales posuerunt mœnia portus.

This description alludes to Syracuse. The poet afterwards represents the amorous deity as reaching the Fountain of Cyane, already described, where with his trident he burst open a passage, and descended with his bride into the infernal regions.

How changed is the appearance of this once delicious retreat! It no longer wears the livery of perpetual spring; no longer its umbrageous groves interrupt the scorching rays; no longer its limpid wave reflects the hues of flowers innumerable. All is desolate and deserted:—

Pro molli violâ, pro purpureo narcisso,
Carduus, et spinis surgit paliurus acutis.

Except a few scattered trees, which feather the south-west side, its banks and declivities are totally naked. Its borders are stinking and loathsome, and in the summer months exhale an air, which is pestilential, and fatal to those who approach them.

Tantum ævi longinqua valet mutare vetustas.

It is about four miles in circumference, and its waters are distinguished by a remarkable peculiarity. At times it abounds in fish, particularly tench and eels; but at others they all perish, and without

any apparent cause. This is probably owing to some subterraneous communication with a volcano.

Leaving this region of fiction, I continued my road among the mountains, having on my left an almost boundless range of heights, terminating at the extremity in Mount Ætna. I mounted a steep ascent, passed some sulphureous springs, and then reached a valley rich in corn. Afterwards I proceeded along a mountainous ridge, totally bare of trees, till I descended towards Piazza, the approach to which is highly picturesque. In the valley of Piazza, my sight, which had been wearied by so many miles of wild and dreary surface, was refreshed with the appearance of luxuriant and varied foliage. Considering the continual ascents and descents which occurred during my journey, I found the roads tolerably good. On reaching the city I perceived the inhabitants engaged in celebrating their great annual festival of the *Corpus Domini*. It was also the season of their annual fair. The descent from Castrogiovanni is as steep and bad as that on the other side of the city, by which I entered.

I have already observed, that the variety of trees which abound in the valley of Piazza, give a picturesque appearance to the entrance of the

town. I must add that the assemblage and agreeable intermixture of pines and cypresses, in the garden, called the *Ritiro*, belonging to the Padri Riformati, on the left hand of the approach, produces a most agreeable and pleasing effect. The environs, in general, are well wooded, and ornamented with avenues of fine elms, &c. Indeed it is the only place I have yet seen in Sicily, which can boast of sufficient shade to screen its inhabitants from the summer heats.

This town is mentioned by Fazellus, under the ancient name of Platia, and by Cluverius, under that of *Philosophiana Gelensium*, from the river Gela, which rises near, and falls into the sea at Terranova. From the slight attention paid to it by the classic writers, and the absence of any vestige of antiquity, it was evidently a place of little consequence in early times. The modern town is irregularly built, on the summit and declivities of an eminence. The *Chiesa Madre* is a good structure, and, indeed, the best of which it can boast. On an adjoining height are the ruins of an old castle. Plentiful springs of water abound in its valley and territory, and give fertility to the soil; but the purity of the air is much injured by the summer heats. I lodged at the Franciscan Convent, the Superior of which has been sent to Moldavia, Constantinople, &c. *ad propagandam fidem*; but his travels

had not taught him hospitality, or good manners; for I found him by far the most churlish and uncivil *guardiano*, of the many with whom my Sicilian tours had made me acquainted.

Friday, June 4. From Piazza I reached Caltagirone, in a little more than four hours. From the former city the descent is rough, and the ascent to the latter rather steep, and rendered worse by a heavy rain, which fell during my journey. The beautiful and cheerful valley, which had gladdened my view, continued for some way on the right; and it was not without regret that I left it, in all the luxuriance of vegetation. An open corn country succeeded; and on approaching Caltagirone, the mountains became better peopled, and more varied in cultivation, with extensive vineyards, &c. I was received with great cordiality at the Franciscan convent. In fact I had need of shelter, for the badness of the weather and the violence of the rain confined me within the cloistered walls during the remainder of the day. The same inclement weather seemed to pursue me, as for five days of my first tour four have been rainy; and here, as well as at Castrogiovanni, I have been shivering with cold, during a season when the heats are generally far advanced and troublesome in this climate.

Saturday, June 5. Caltagirone being commonly supposed of Saracen origin, cannot boast of its antiquities. It is reckoned the best mountain town in the island; the best built, and most populous, as well as the most frequented by the nobility. The population daily increases, from the privilege which it enjoys of being exempted from all taxes whatever. The extensive possessions of the place enabled the inhabitants to purchase their immunity by a handsome donative to the king. It, however, contains little worthy the attention of a traveller. The *Monte di Pieta*, which is yet unfinished, exhibits a pleasing style of architecture. A bridge of one fine arch, built by the Franciscans, forms a communication between two parts of the town. A spacious road leads out of the southern gate of the town; and on the right hand a handsome structure is begun, which is to serve as a *casino* of amusement. This road is about to be widened, and extended as far as an ancient convent of the Padri Osservanti. Here I saw a statue, by Gagini, of a Madonna and Child, which evinces a considerable degree of merit; but the purity and simplicity of the sculpture has been injured by the gilding and painting, which were meant as an additional ornament.

The situation of the place is elevated, and commands an extensive view of the surrounding plains

and meadows. Its vineyards are abundant; and their produce, which is good, forms an article of commerce.

Having dined, I took leave of my venerable and worthy hosts, and reached Vittoria, after a stage of six hours and a half. At first the country was rich in corn, vines, olives, figs, aloes, &c.; but afterwards became wild, and exhibited only cork trees, oleasters, &c. The extensive and fine vineyards of Vittoria, which stretch over a spacious plain, next succeeded; and in the vicinity of the town, carob and olive trees made their appearance. The greater part of the road was good and dry. I lodged, as before, with the Segreto D. Santo Giudice.

Sunday, June 7. After six days constant travelling, I was not sorry to rest myself this morning. Having dined with the Segreto, I repaired to the sea shore, where there is a small *caricatore* for the goods shipped from hence, but no port. On this coast the victorious Romans suffered a great loss by a storm, which is described by Polybius, book i. ch. 3.

"The Romans, under the command of the Consuls M. Æmilius and Servius Pulvius, having defeated the Carthaginians in Africa, on their return to

Sicily, were attacked on the Camarinean coast by a tempest, so great and terrible, that no words can sufficiently describe the horrors of it. Of four hundred and sixty four vessels, no more than eighty escaped the fury of the storm, the rest being either buried in the ocean, or dashed against the rocks or promontories. The whole shore was covered with dead bodies, and with broken ships, so that history can scarcely afford another example of so great and general a destruction. This misfortune was not so much to be ascribed to accident, as to the imprudent obstinacy of the Consuls. For the pilots had given them repeated warnings, not to sail along the exterior coast of Sicily, which looks towards Africa, where the shore was open, and afforded no convenient harbour; but the Consuls despised their admonitions, and held on their course along the coast*."

A mile distant from the Scoglietta, was the ancient and famous city of Camarina, which gave name to the shore. Its origin is recorded by Thucydides:

"Camarina quoque primùm a Syracusanis fuit condita, annis ferme 135 postquam Syracusæ con-

* Hampton's Polybius, book i. chap. 3.

ditæ. Quum autem Camarinenses ob defectionem à Syracusanis bello essent ejecti: post aliquando Hippocrates Gelæ tyrannus, pro redemptione Syracusanorum, quos captivos habebat, Camarinensium agro accepto, ipse coloniæ deductor, Camarinam iterum condidit atque incolis frequentavit. Et quum rursus à Gelone sedibus moti essent: mox jam tertiò per eundem Gelonem Camarina frequentata est."

Camarina was situated on an eminence, between the river Oanus, now Trascolari, on one side, and the rivulet Hipparis, now *Fiume di Camarina*, on the other. This last stream rises in the town of Comiso. On the eastern side was the *Palus Camarina*, still visible, though the greater part is reduced to a marsh. At a time, when, from the failure of the springs, the lake became dry, and caused a pestilence, the Oracle of Apollo was consulted, and returned for answer,

Μὴ κινεῖ Καμάρινα· ἀκίνητος γὰρ ἀμείνων.

Ne moveas Camarinam: immota enim melior.

But the inhabitants disregarded the warning, and drained the marsh. They thus deprived themselves of an important natural defence: and their enemies, finding an easy access on this side, cap-

tured the city. To the prohibition of the oracle, Virgil alludes:

> Et fatis nunquam concessa moveri
> Adparet Camarina procul.

Sufficient traces yet remain to attest its antiquity, and indicate its site, though not enough to repay the research of the curious traveller. A dilapidated watch-tower, built of old materials, some scattered portions of the original walls, and the vestiges of a building, probably a temple, are all that has escaped the ravages of time. The part of this structure, which is yet left, appears to have been the cell, formed according to the manner of the Greeks; and the pavement composed of large square stones. A church is erected on the site, which will probably ensure for some years the preservation of these small, but interesting fragments, now the only indications of Camarina. Cluverius states, that, within the memory of persons then living, this city was stripped of its most precious monuments of antiquity, which were transported to Terranova; but during my stay there, I observed nothing of the kind, except the prostrate Doric columns. On the northern side was the place of sepulture; and from thence the Prince of Biscaris has enriched his valuable museum, at Catania, with a very extensive collection of Græco-

Siculo vases. Camarina has preserved its name nearly unchanged by time, being still called Camarana. It is nine miles distant from Vittoria. The country, through which I passed, is sandy, mostly wild, and overspread with forests; yet in some parts bearing corn, vines, olives, and carobs. Numerous ruined *Masserie* prove that the vineyards were once more extensive, and the population more numerous.

Monday, June 7. After breakfast I rode to Comisò, a small town of Saracenic origin, four miles from Vittoria. Here Fazellus places the *Fons Dianæ*, celebrated by Solinus for the singular quality of its waters.

" Fluminum miracula abundè varia sunt. Dianam, qui ad Camarinam fluit, nisi manus pudicæ hauserit, non coibunt in corpus unum, latex vineus, et latex aquæ."

Cluverius, on the contrary, places this fountain near Sta. Croce, though I think without sufficient reason; as the fountain of Comisò corresponds with the description of Solinus, by taking its course through the Lake of Camarina, and emptying itself into the sea under the walls of that city. It rises in the market-place of Comisò and forms a copious stream, clear and sparkling. It afterwards

bore the name of Hipparis, and with the neighbouring river Oanus, now Trascolari, had the honour of being celebrated by Pindar, in one of his Olympic Odes:—

Λειοῦει μεν αλσος αγνον το τεον, ποταμον τε Ωανον, εγχωριαν τε λιμναν, και σεμνας οχετας ιπταρις οισιν αρδει στρατον.

"Caneus celebrat quidem lucum sacrum tuum fluviumque Oanum, patriamque paludem, et venerandos Canales, Hipparis quibus aquas suppeditat populo*."

After dinner I left Vittoria, and pursued the same road which I had taken in my first tour to Sta. Croce; first through an uncultivated district, abounding in wild aromatic plants; and then through a corn country, now glowing with the golden hue of autumn. Indeed, notwithstanding the earliness of the season, the harvest was already begun. I was received with every mark of civility and attention, by Don Ippolito Rinzivillo, Segreto of the Marchese di Sta. Croce, to whom I carried a letter of recommendation; a credential absolutely necessary in this petty town, which does not contain above two thousand souls, and not a single convent where a traveller can lodge.

* Pindarus. Oxonii, folio, p. 53.

Tuesday, June 8. Though no geographer has placed the site of any ancient city at Sta. Croce, there are evident signs that the vicinity once maintained a numerous population. The first object which struck my attention was a bath about a quarter of a mile from the town, built in the Grecian style, with large stones. The Prince of Bicaris gives the dimensions of the reservoir wherein the spring rises, which afterwards supplies the bath.

"Una magnifica vasca, lunga palmi 74 e larga 50, formata di grosse muraglie, di grande riquadrate pietre, che nel suo vano, e lunga, palmi 45 e larga 32. Scaturisce in essa una abondantissima sorgiva d'acqua, che si tramanda per due condotti, larghi palmi 3 ognuno."

This reservoir and source is at present surrounded by a high wall, and a ladder is necessary for those who wish to examine it. Here Cluverius places the *Fons Dianæ*. The spring is now called Favara. From the reservoir the water flows through a garden of orange trees, unusually tall and luxuriant. A little to the right is the antique building, supposed to have been used as a bath. It is in tolerable preservation; and the cupola, arches, and walls, are well constructed.

Two or three miles distant from this building, near the sea, and close to the bank of the same rivulet, is another antique structure, so similar in its plan that there can be no doubt it was erected at the same time. Tradition reports, but I know not on what foundation, that a subterraneous communication exists between them. Of the last, Fazellus has given a description:—

"Imminet ager in sinu depresso m. p. ambitum conficiens, collibus circumdatus, præfati fluvioli irrigatione ad culturam aptissimus, et amænitati, quam hortorum, pomariorumque vetustissimorum monumenta testantur, splendidissimus. Huic quod tria ibi sunt distincta magnificentissimæ, elegantissimæ structuræ balnea, a balneis nomen obvenit. Quorum duo semiruta, tertium prorsus integrum adhuc cernitur: opus sanè regium et cuicunque Romano non impar.

"Ei ad dextram per jactum lapidis tumulus insurgit, in cujus cacumine, quod planum est, Theatrum olim stetisse insigne, ac planè singulare, ex formâ, et maximis admirandisque priscorum operum fragmentis liquet. Unde et jam in subjectos hortos, colles, planitiem, urbem ipsam ac pelagus jucundissimus porrigitur prospectus, quem secessui olim curarumque laxamento, et lasciviæ

diversorio hujusce urbis, regibus habitum non dubito."

The historian adds, that he supposes this to have been the palace of Cocalus, king of the Sicani, and the neighbouring city Inyctus. Cluverius, however, again differs from him; and places Inyctus not far from Selinunte, on the banks of the river Belici, formerly called Hypsa. Whatever may be the case with regard to these jarring conjectures, the baths remain in a good state of preservation, though their magnificence is overrated by Fazellus. The apartments are small, and loftier than those of Sta. Croce. The walls of the theatre no longer exist, though I discovered a few traces of its foundations, and other parts of the building. It was situated on an eminence, immediately above the baths, and commanded a pleasant view.

Having examined these antiquities, I proceeded to the left, towards the shore. Here I observed evident traces of an ancient city, which appears to have been built of large square stones, though the greater part, like those of Camarina, have been removed, to be employed in the modern edifices of Terranova. Farther on, and beyond the watch-tower, called St. Nicolo, are the vestiges of

another extensive city, though, like the former, the foundations alone remain. These are vulgarly called the *Anticaglie*. The names of these places are now lost. Mention is, indeed, made of the city and port of Caucana, which may have been situated on this spot, as the ruins extend to the beach. This place is now called *Seno Longobardo*.

The whole coast is at present a scene of complete desolation: vast sand-banks, wild uncultivated tracts of land, and a few scattered watch-towers, alone meet the view. The soil produces a variety of wild aromatic plants; and vast numbers of rabbits burrow here.

Having heard of some remains of antiquity on the other side of Sta. Croce, I went after dinner to visit them. About two miles east of the town, in the midst of the corn fields, I discovered the traces of a considerable town or city. It was built with more massive blocks of stone than those on the sea coast, and the fragments are less dilapidated; many rising, detached, like towers, scattered about the country. I could not examine the spot with so much attention as I wished, on account of the standing corn; neither could I discover the traces of temples, or other ornamental buildings. I have

found no mention of these ruins in any author, ancient or modern; but they certainly indicate a place of considerable magnitude and importance.

The petty town of Sta. Croce is now the only inhabited spot of a country once cultivated and populous.

Having found a good opportunity of embarking from hence for Malta, my research for antiquities was suspended; though I much wished to visit a ruin, mentioned by Fazellus, under the vulgar appellation of *Steri dipinto.* It is said to lie about a mile inland, between the Fiume di Sta. Croce and Fiume Trascolari; and is described as situated on an eminence, and ornamented with columns. It is supposed to have been a heathen temple.

EXCURSIONS TO THE ISLANDS OF MALTA AND GOZO.

TUESDAY, June 8. At ten at night I embarked at the Secca, on the coast, close to the *Anticaglie*, on board a Maltese merchant vessel. The favourable wind which had blown for some days, and which gave me hopes of a short passage to Malta, soon after ceased. A dead calm ensued, and continued for twenty-four hours. In the course of Wednesday we did not make above fifteen miles. During the night the wind freshened, and on Thursday morning we had the pleasure of descrying Malta. The wind, however, prevented us from steering directly to the great port, but drove us toward the isles of Gozo and Comino; from whence, by tacking, we with difficulty reached, and at length safely anchored in, the port of St. Paolo. The pleasure I felt in having traversed the canal, and arrived in sight of my long-desired object, was, however, in

some measure damped by the impossibility of landing. The guard of the watch-tower was, according to custom, immediately dispatched to the Grand Master, with an account of the vessel, cargo, &c. I was, therefore, condemned to pass on board another restless night, for the myriads of fleas, with which I was infested, overcame all propensity to sleep.

Friday, June 11. I had the satisfaction of being summoned to shore, and of finding a calesse ready to convey me to Malta; for Signior Mattei, to whom I was recommended, had personally interceded with the Grand Master, and obtained leave for me to land, a favour which would not have been granted even to an inhabitant. The next day my servants received the same permission.

The islands of Malta and Gozo were known to the ancients by the names of *Melita* and *Gaulos*, and under those appellations are mentioned by different classic authors. In early times these isles were inhabited by the Phœnicians, as we find in a passage from Thucydides: "Phœnices præterea circà omnem habitabant Siciliam, occupatis extremis ad mare partibus, parvisque insulis ei objacentibus, negotiandi cum Siciliâ gratiâ." Diodorus adds, "Siciliæ versùs meridiem tres insulæ,

medio in pelago, objectæ sunt, quarum unaquæque urbem habet et portus, qui tutos navibus tempestate jactatis receptus præbent: prima est, quæ vocatur Melita. Est autem insula Phœnicum colonia, qui quum negotiationes suas ad oceanum usque occidentalem extenderent, refugium in hanc insulam, ob portum commoditatem, et in alto mari situm, habebant."

These islands were afterwards occupied, for the same purpose, by their descendants and rivals, the Carthaginians; who have left here many Punic monuments. They shared the same fate as Sicily, in becoming subject to the Roman empire, and, on its decline, to the Saracens. In 1089, Malta, with its dependent isle, was wrested from the king of Tunis, by Roger Count of Sicily; and subsequently, like Sicily, formed part of the Spanish dominions. On the expulsion of the Knights of St. John from Rhodes, they received these islands in fee from the Emperor Charles the Fifth, and have since continued to retain them. Malta has attained celebrity in ecclesiastical history for the shipwreck of St. Paul on its coast, his residence of three months, and his successful propagation of the Gospel. Many disputes, however, have arisen on this subject; and some have supposed that the spot where the Apostle found a refuge was Meleada, on the coast of Dalmatia. But

this conjecture seems to be without foundation, as the sequel of his journey to Syracuse, Reggio, Puzzuoli, and Rome, leaves no doubt that Malta was the Melita of the Scripture. The cathedral, grotto, and port, still bear the name of St. Paul.

In heathen times, here were two celebrated temples, one dedicated to Juno, and the other to Hercules. The former, with its valuable furniture and treasure, was so highly venerated, as to remain untouched, during the Punic wars; but nothing could secure it from the rapacious hands of Verres. Fazellus places the temple of Juno on the eastern promontory, not far from the city, and that of Hercules towards the southern part of the island. He states, that in his time remains of both were visible.

Nothing can be more uninteresting than the first aspect of this territory, to those who enter it on the land side. An extent of country, rather hilly than mountainous; thousands of stone walls, dividing and sustaining little enclosures, formed like terraces; villages so numerous as to bear the appearance of a continued town; and the whole raised on a barren rock, with scarce a tree to enliven the dusky-tinted view; such are the objects which first meet the eye of a traveller. This cheerless scenery struck me the more forcibly, after

having quitted so recently the fertile and verdant regions on the opposite coast of Sicily. Indeed, I could nowhere find a parallel to it, except in some parts of the dreary Contea di Modica. Yet this was the spot which poetry and fiction had assigned as the voluptuous abode of Calypso! However, nature under all her forms, and in all her productions, frequently veils beneath an unpromising exterior, singularities, and even excellencies, which awaken curiosity, and raise admiration. Such was the case at Malta. From the singularity and novelty which its territory, situation, and cultivation, and the manners of its inhabitants, presented, I found means to divert and diminish that disgust, which its first rude and uninteresting aspect inspired.

On this barren rock nature has lavished the most precious of her gifts to a maritime and insular people: a series of ports, the finest and most singular to be found. By these advantages the Phœnicians, the most commercial people of antiquity, were tempted to establish themselves in the island; and by the same advantages the original inhabitants were enabled to excel in manufactures, and accumulate wealth. Neither the cause, nor its effect, escaped the notice of Diodorus:—

"Melita," he observes, "portubus compluri-

bus usque percommodis instructa est: opibus abundant incolæ, variorum quidpe operum artifices habet: inter quos excellunt qui lintea insigni subtilitate ac mollitie texunt. Domus illic sunt perpulchræ, suggrundiis et albario opere magnificenter exornatæ."

The south-western coast is destitute of ports; for nature has defended it with steep and, indeed, inaccessible rocks. The south-eastern is indented with many, which are noble and capacious; that of Marsa Scirocco, at the eastern extremity; the great port of Malta, and that of Marsamuscetto adjoining; then those of St. Paul and Mellecha. Besides these, there are others which admit of small vessels, such as St. Giorgio, St. Giuliano, le Salini, &c. This whole coast is strongly guarded with batteries and numerous watch-towers. The entrance of the great port, and that of Marsamuscetto, present a most formidable aspect, being fortified with a series of works truly astonishing. The city of Valletta is situated on a promontory between the two ports; and on the point is the Castle of St. Elmo, commanding the entrance on each side. Here the faro or light-house is erected. To the left of the great port is the Fort Ricasoli, and beyond, the strong Castle of St. Angelo, presenting a formidable battery, on which I counted above eighty pieces of artillery. On this side

nature has formed four different ports, all commodious. The part of the city by which they are overlooked is called the Burgo, and much inhabited; and the whole is crowned by a strong fortification, called the Cotonnera. The right side of the great port, beside the castle of St. Elmo, is commanded by the Floriana, and lastly the *Opera Incoronata*, or Crown Work, an extensive fortification towards the land.

Beyond the promontory of Valletta, as I have before observed, is the port of Marsamuscetto, the left defences of which are St. Elmo and the Floriana, and the right, Fort Manuel. Near the last is a commodious Lazaretto, where the most rigid quarantine is exacted, on account of the commercial communications of the island with Africa and the Levant, the usual seats of the plague. This part of the city is considered as the weakest, the only work to prevent a bombardment from the opposite strand being Fort Manuel. Indeed, it was attacked by the Turks nearly from this spot; and the point of land still bears the name of the celebrated corsair, Dragut. The ports in general are irregularly formed; but, extending far inland, they are perfectly safe and commodious. Most of the fortifications are cut out of the solid rock. On reviewing these numerous fortifications, they appeared to me too extensive for the popula-

tion and military force of Malta, for it would require an army larger than the whole island could supply, to garrison the forts, and work the artillery with effect.

The city of Valletta is the most modern, best built, and most populous part of Malta. It is the residence of the Grand Master and Knights. The place is improving daily in beauty and convenience; and though its hilly situation admits of few level streets, the fatigue of frequent ascents and descents is obviated, in a great measure, by art. The houses are built, and the streets paved, with a white stone; the roofs are flat, and on each side is a footway. But the architecture and symmetry of the several houses are destroyed by heavy wooden balconies, projecting, like excrescencies, and painted of a dingy hue, which ill accords with the colour of the stone.

The public edifices, and other objects which are worthy of attention, are few in number. The first that claimed my notice was the church of St. Giovanni, which is adorned with the costly mausolea of the Grand Masters and Knights, and the best works of the painter Calabrese; and boasts of a valuable treasure. From its paintings, tapestry, gilding, and marbles, the first view of this church is rich and impressive. The roof is semi-circular,

and bomb proof, and divided into six compartments, in which the hand of Calabrese has depicted the history of St. John, with a considerable degree of spirit and skill. The sides are hung with fine tapestry, and the walls adorned with carved work, gilt, but in a heavy taste. The pavement is divided into large compartments, composed of flat slabs of different marbles, which serve as sepulchral memorials of the knights. The arms and ensigns being emblazoned on these, in proper colours, the whole forms a new and striking kind of mosaic.

In the right aisle of the church are several splendid monuments to the memory of the Grand Masters, among which that of Cotonner displays the greatest merit. The two figures supporting it are the work of the Maltese sculptor, Gaffa, who likewise executed the colossal figures on the high altar. Beneath is a subterraneous chapel, containing different monuments of the Grand Masters. It was used at the period, when religious zeal, courage, and simplicity of manners, were the characteristics of the Order. In the chapel of St. John is a good picture, representing the decollation of the Saint, by Michael Angelo di Caravaggio. The treasure consists of numerous vases of massive gold, adorned with precious stones, &c. and was brought hither on the removal of the

Order from Rhodes. In the church are some large chandeliers of silver, and one of solid gold.

The Grand Master's palace is a plain and simple structure, containing a small cabinet of pictures, and a museum of a few antiquities, which have been discovered on the island. Among these are some large basso relievos, in marble, of portraits, with inscriptions, all copied in Ciantar's *Malta Illustrata;* some bronze and clay idols, and earthen and Græco-Siculo vases, on one of which is a singular petrefaction of oyster shells. Also, a small marble group, representing Romulus and Remus suckled by the wolf, &c. The pictures are too indifferent to deserve particular mention. Adjoining is the arsenal, which contains an extensive collection of fine arms and armour, arranged with great taste. Opposite the entrance is a well-wrought cannon, the carriage of which is ornamented with two bronze figures of Furies. Near it is a curious specimen of military antiquity, namely, a cannon formed of leather. The staircase deserves notice for its easy and gradual ascent.

The Library, which is open to the public, was formed by the bequests of different members of the Order. The duplicates are sold to purchase new works, so that in time it will become respectable. The rooms are small, and by no means well

adapted for the purpose. It contains a few pieces of antiquity, one of which is the best specimen of antique sculpture in Malta, but has been extolled much beyond its real merit. It is a figure of Hercules, resting on his club, in small life. The head has been separated from the body, and, according to report, once sold for that of a saint. Rasping and cleaning have given the whole figure a modern appearance.

Formerly two antique candelabra were preserved in this collection, but one has been sent to Paris They were exactly similar, and bore the same Punic inscription. Underneath is one in Greek, supposed to be a compendium of that in Punic; and from this conjectural version a Punic alphabet has been formed. The whole is copied in Abela's work. Some other inscriptions are collected here, particularly one in Greek, lately brought from Athens; on which the present librarian, Abate Navarro, has written an ingenious and learned dissertation. Here are also some medals, among which those of the Phœnicians, the first inhabitants of the island, are the most curious, from their remote antiquity.

A handsome structure is building, near the palace, for the mint, and other public uses. It is, as I am informed, to be ornamented with some

antique columns brought from Egypt and taken in an English vessel, and they are to be newly moulded for the purpose.

The public hospital is a handsome edifice, and the institution itself is noble and charitable. Two extensive galleries, besides smaller apartments, are destined for the reception of the sick, who are treated with the utmost attention. A few devout, and perhaps penitent, Knights still observe the ancient custom of attending the sick in person, which was one of the duties incumbent on the Order, while it preserved its original spirit and character. At present the prophecy of Fazellus seems fast approaching its full accomplishment. "Ubi et remisso priscæ veritatis vigore, inertiam propè sectantur; propediem (ni falso auguror) defecturi." Besides the hospital, there are other charitable institutions, both for male and female inhabitants.

The public granaries resemble those of the *caricatori* at Girgenti, being excavated in the rock, and having the same quality of preserving the corn for a considerable period.

The Order still consists of eight lodges, or languages, one having been recently added to supply that of England. These are France, Au-

vergne, Provence, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Germany, and the newly-formed language called Anglo-Bavaria. For the establishment of this last, the Elector has appropriated the possessions of the Jesuits; and the arms of England and Bavaria united are placed over the lodge. The different lodges are fine buildings, and add much to the beauty of the city.

The theatre is small; and the present company of comedians very bad.

The ancient city of Malta, called *Notabile*, and the see of the bishop, is built on an eminence, a few miles distant from Valletta. It was probably the metropolis, mentioned by Cicero: "Insula est Melita satis lato ab Siciliâ mari periculosoque disjuncta, in quâ est eodem nomine oppidum."

The Cathedral is a handsome building, in good taste. This city was celebrated for the preaching of St. Peter, and distinguished by many of his miracles. A grotto is still shewn which bears the name of the apostle, and to the earth of which many extraordinary qualities are ascribed. It is said to be obnoxious to all kinds of serpents, and an antidote to their venom, as well as a specific in fluxes and spitting of blood. It has also the property of reproduction; for according to vulgar

opinion, whatever quantity is removed, is immediately supplied, so that the cavern never decreases in dimension.

Not far from the Grotto di St. Pietro are the Catacombs, which are the best I have yet seen, in regard to preservation. Their extent was formerly very great; and if report may be credited, a subterraneous communication once extended as far as Marsa Scirocco. But at present the several passages are closed, to prevent accidents; because, as I was informed, some people have sacrificed their lives to their curiosity, in exploring this gloomy labyrinth. There is every reason to suppose that these catacombs served as habitations for the living, during the early times of Christianity, when the professors of the new doctrine were compelled to seek a refuge, and perform their rites, in secret and retired places. I am of opinion, however, that, like those of Syracuse, Salerno, &c. they were originally designed as receptacles for the dead, though in later times resorted to by the living from dire necessity. The sepulchral niches are cut in the rock, on each side of a narrow passage. In one spot is a spacious vault, supported by four fluted columns united; and on either side are two flat stones, which, from their shape, have apparently served the purpose of expressing oil. Small niches, probably intended for

lamps and lachrymatoria, are cut within the sepulchral arches. It is to be regretted that these cavities have been closed, as the space left open is too small to satisfy curiosity.

Abela mentions numerous other subterraneous vaults existing in the island; but these were all I visited.

In the subterraneous church, or chapel, adjoining the Grotto of St. Paul, is a good marble statue of that saint, by the sculptor Gaffa.

Under the gate leading into the city on the left hand is an antique statue, in a bad style, and with a borrowed head; but christened with the name of Juno. Before the Hotel de Ville are some large fragments of a cornice, richly wrought, though the taste of the sculpture is indifferent. Within is a Latin inscription, in good characters, commemorating the restoration of a temple of Apollo, podium, columns, &c. It has been copied by Abela. In the city I observed several broken columns, and some other houses, in the old Norman style of architecture.

At a short distance is a villa, belonging to the Grand Master, built in the form of a castle, and flanked with four towers, at the angles. It is

called the *Boschetto*, as being on the most woody spot in the island, and is watered by an abundant spring. Being uninhabited, it exhibits a melancholy appearance. The domain about it abounds in game. During the summer an annual festival is held here, by the peasantry of the island, who, with their brides, spend a most joyous day. According to description, the scene must be equally striking and agreeable. In the valley, beneath the *Boschetto*, is a large grove of orange trees, under each of which is a party of countrymen, with their wives, children, beasts, &c. attended by music, and forming numberless picturesque groupes. Attendance at this festival is considered of so much importance by the females, that it is even said to form a clause in marriage contracts. At this revel jealousy is banished, and gives place to universal joy and content. Numerous parties from Malta crowd to witness such a scene of rural happiness, and enliven it by their presence.

The Grand Master has another villa, named St. Antonio, to which he sometimes retires. The gardens are laid out in the French taste.

During my stay at Malta, I visited a place called Macluba, at some distance, where there is a singular phenomenon, not hitherto accounted for. A considerable portion of ground, in the shape of

an amphitheatre, appears to have suddenly sunk, to a great depth, leaving a cavity, bounded by steep rocks on every side. The bottom has been planted with various kinds of fruit-trees, and a descent has been cut in the rock.

In the island is a subterraneous excavation, called Ghar Kiber, which is mentioned by Abela, and also by Kircher, in his *Mundus Subterraneus*, as occupied by several families. I had not time to visit it; but was informed that it is now uninhabited.

On leaving the walls of the city, I looked for rural scenery, and the other characteristics, which distinguish the country from the town. I cast an anxious eye for the cooling shade, or for some kind of shelter from the scorching rays of the sun, and the penetrating clouds of dust, which overpower the sight. But I looked in vain: without the walls, nature exhibits the most dreary aspect which it is possible to conceive.

As I have before observed, the villages are very numerous, and the houses neatly built. The churches, also, are magnificent and in good taste: the effect of the religious zeal which animates the lower class of people. I will not call it superstition; for I would not stigmatise the tenets of

those who differ from my own church, with a term implying some degree of reproach, even though carried to an extreme. *Sua cuique voluntas.* Let each be sincere and steady in what he professes, and learn to look with indulgence on his neighbour, however they may disagree. In the country churches I observed separate entrances, as well as separate places, for men and women. This custom appears to owe its origin to the spirit of jealousy, which reigns among the Maltese, and prevents the intermixture of the two sexes.

The numerous stone walls, which cover and deform the face of the country, may be said to be a work of necessity, as well as of use. In former times the whole surface of the island presented only barren rock. A continued system of labour has not only rendered this surface capable of tillage; but even given it fertility. The rock was first levelled; the particles of earth found within carefully laid aside, and united with portions of the stone pulverised, to form the shallow soil intended for cultivation. The larger masses were employed in erecting walls, to separate and sustain these artificial beds. At first the Maltese, like the laborious Swiss, transported the earth from Gozo, and even from Sicily, to supply the want of mold, which nature has denied; but now the custom is discontinued, because experience has shewn that the pulverised rock proves more beneficial. The

whole process of this system is inconceivably tedious; but it is suited to the persevering character of the people.

The fertility of Malta is indeed astonishing. The soil yields annual and often double crops, without a fallow, and frequently eighty or ninety fold; a result which we may entirely ascribe to the care and labour of the husbandman. The productions of the island are few in number. Cotton is the principal and indeed the only commodity, which is made an article of merchandise. It is sown in May, in the following manner. A hole is made for the reception of the seed, which is watered at the time of sowing, and again when it appears above the ground. It then needs no other attention till August or September, when it is gathered. Wells and cisterns are made in the fields, for the purpose of irrigation. The corn crops are not sufficient for more than three months consumption of the inhabitants; and the remainder is imported from Sicily. The grass is called Sulla, and similar to the sainfoin. Some cummin and aniseed is grown.

With regard to vineyards, there are none; at least for the purpose of making wine. The plants and fruit thrive well, but the wine is not drinkable. Recourse is therefore had to Sicily, for this necessary commodity, as well

as for oil. The chief trees, which the island produces, are the carob, fig, and orange: the two latter fruits are abundant, and celebrated for a fine flavour. Few, however, are visible in the country, as the gardens or plantations are surrounded with high stone walls.

Notwithstanding the astonishing industry and frugality of the inhabitants, Malta wants the principal necessaries of life. Sicily is the nurse which feeds it; and supplies corn, oil, and wines. The last is chiefly brought from Vittoria and Mascali, under Mount Etna; which also supplies snow, an article of no small importance in this arid climate. Oxen are likewise drawn both from Sicily and Barbary. The exportation of cattle is, indeed, prohibited in Sicily; but no regulations can baffle the vigilance awakened by the hope of liberal gains. Speronaras are loaded with oxen, and take advantage of the night to pass over to Malta. One of these small boats has frequently been known to convey no less than ten beasts. Though in Sicily their flesh is scarcely eatable, they seem to change their nature on being transported hither. They are fattened with barley-meal and cotton seeds; and even the water is said to improve their quality.

As springs are scarce, the defect is supplied by numerous and capacious cisterns, and by two

aqueducts; one of considerable length, raised on handsome arcades, executed by the Grand Master Vignacourt; the other subterraneous, and lately completed by the present Grand Master. The water of Malta bears keeping an unusual time, even at sea; and long retains its spirit and freshness.

The climate is exceedingly mild in winter, but intolerably hot in summer; and at all seasons subject to very strong winds. The factitious soil occasions whirlwinds of dust, so violent and penetrating, that it is almost impossible to ride or walk. To obviate this inconvenience, a two-wheeled carriage, of a deformed shape, is generally used in this country; it is drawn by a single mule; and the muleteer, who acts as driver, runs on foot, and is capable of bearing all the fatigue of the day's journey. This dust, and the reflection of the sun from the rocks and houses, are so pernicious to the eyes, that many make use of green spectacles.

The dress of the men is a short waistcoat and trowsers, bound round the waist with a sash, and a red or blue cap. That of the female peasantry, a kind of blue striped shift; and when at church, they throw a black veil over the head, like those of Sicily. In the city, the women wear a round high toupee, bound with a handkerchief, which hangs

loose behind. Both men and women in the country go barefooted. Sometimes, on entering the city, they wear shoes and stockings, but these are carefully taken off on quitting it, so that a pair of shoes frequently descends from one generation to another. The men are strong, frugal, honest, and industrious, and inured to labour and hardship; many having no other bed than the bare stones.

Two species of stone, differing in quality, are here used for building, one hard, the other very soft. The latter is generally preferred, from its facility in working. A peasant's house, consisting of square blocks of stone, laid on each other, without cement, is constructed in a few days. This soft species of stone is speedily injured by the weather, and is of short duration; but the expense of working is so small, that it is found cheaper to rebuild, than to employ the harder and more chargeable material.

Malta may vie with Holland in regard to neatness. The whiteness of the stone buildings, and the little use made of horses and carriages in the street, contribute to preserve the appearance of cleanliness without, while the taste and manners of the people are equally favourable to that habit within. This characteristic of the country is ob-

served, also, in the white and neat uniforms of the soldiery.

When the island was transferred to the knights of St. John, by Charles the Fifth, the whole population did not exceed ten thousand souls. At present, including that of Gozo, it amounts to above one hundred and twenty thousand. Malta, the ancient metropolis, is now much depopulated, in comparison with former times, and the cause is obvious. At first, the native barons saw, with regret and indignation, their country given up into strange hands, and themselves excluded from all public charges. They, therefore, separated themselves from the members of the Order, and resorted to their own metropolis. But their feelings are now grown less acute, and their temper more submissive; and the attractions and diversions of Valletta have vanquished the sentiment of national pride.

During my residence at Malta, I lodged at the house of Carletti; a tolerable inn, but it is not improved since his change of habitation.

Wednesday, June 16. After dinner, I embarked on board a speronara, which I hired for seven ounces, to convey me to Gozo, and Capo Passaro. The wind being contrary, the boat-

men were obliged to row the whole way to Gozo, which is eighteen miles. On leaving the great port, I enjoyed a noble prospect of its entrance, and numerous fortifications, which here appear in the most advantageous point of view. I passed by the smaller inlets of St. Giorgio, St. Giuliano, and Le Saline, and the larger ports of St. Mellecha and St. Paolo; and ran close under the Isle of Cumino, of which the steep and rocky shore presents some romantic scenes, worthy the pencil of Salvator Rosa.

At the close of evening I reached the small port of Gozo, but too late to ascend to the town, where I had secured a lodging in the Convent of St. Francis. I therefore contented myself with a room in a house on the sea shore, where I put up my bed. As soon as day broke, I proceeded to the town, about four miles distant; but instead of halting there, I continued my journey to the opposite side of the island, in order to see the rock on which grows the celebrated styptic, *Fungus Melitensis*. This rock, which is called Hagira tal General, is separated from the land, and on all sides terminates in a steep cliff, apparently inaccessible. But the properties of this valuable plant could not escape the investigating eye of man, nor could the difficulty of reaching its situation baffle his art. Two cords are stretched across from the island to the

rock, and fixed at each extremity. On these is suspended a small square case of wood, large enough to contain a single person, in a bending posture, which is drawn from side to side by means of other cords, and four pullies. This aërial voyage is not long; but I confess the suspense attending it is very unpleasant. I had not the satisfaction of seeing the fungus growing, as it had been gathered; but I understand that it sprouts yearly from the fissures in the rock. The variety of plants flourishing in so confined and singular a spot is really astonishing. All access to this rock is forbidden; and it is under the care of a guardian, who resides at Gozo, and without whose attendance no stranger can visit it.

Having examined this singular spot, I returned to Gozo, to view the few antiquities which are there preserved. Of the many inscriptions found here, and copied by Abela and others, I discovered only three, which are inserted in the walls of the castle. I saw, also, the headless statue of a female, in marble. Near the Convent of St. Agostino was an ancient burying place of the knights, who died during the crusade under St. Louis of France. Their arms and insignia, engraven on flat stones, were originally laid over their graves; but in recent times have been removed, and placed upright against the walls of an adjoining cemetery. The

Castle of Gozo stands on the most elevated spot, and commands a good view of the neighbouring country. The church is neat.

For some distance I pursued the road by which I came, and then turned to the right, to see an old monument, called *La torre dei Giganti.* Its shape is circular; and it is built of huge masses of stone, which are placed without attention to shape or regularity, particularly in the lower courses, some being upright, and others set lengthways. The whole appears to be the work of an old and rude nation; and it has been ascribed to the earliest inhabitants of these islands, the Phœnicians. At a short distance I was shewn the remains of another building in the same shape, though less perfect. Its circle is visible. Huge fallen stones, with two uprights standing, appear to have formed the doorway. The first of these structures has been noticed by the different travellers who have visited Gozo: the second appears to have been unknown; nor should I have discovered it, without the assistance of a priest on the spot.

The cultivation of this little island, its productions, the houses, and the dress of the inhabitants, are similar to those of Malta. The soil, however, is more fertile, as well as more abundant in trees

and water; and it supplies Malta with many fruits and vegetables.

The identity of the habitation, assigned by poets to the nymph Calypso, has occasioned much discussion and variety of opinion. Some place it at Malta, some at Gozo, and others elsewhere. At all events, we may now seek in vain, either at Malta or Gozo, for those verdant groves of alders, poplars, and the odoriferous cypress; for those meadows, clothed in the livery of eternal spring; for those limpid and murmuring streams, with which Homer adorns the abode of Calypso. I therefore agree with his commentator, Eustathius, who observes "Sciendum non quale re verâ est Calypsûs antrum, descripsisse poetam: sed quale debebat esse optime comparatum, ad luxuriosum victum illustris personæ."

From certain lines of Ovid, some authors have imagined, that the original name of Gozo was Cosyra. After relating the fate of Dido, and the flight of her sister Anna, he continues:—

Fertilis est Melite, sterili vicina Cosyræ
Insula, quam Libyci verberat unda freti:
Hanc petit, hospitio regis confisa vetusto,
Hospes opum dives, rex ibi Battus erat:
Qui postquam didicit casus utriusque sororis
Hæc inquit, tellus, quantulacumque, tua

But various inscriptions, which have been discovered, prove the appellation of Gozo to have been Gaulos. Besides, the epithet given in this passage will not apply to Gozo, which is endowed with a deeper and more fruitful soil than Malta. The passage, however, shews that the fertility of Malta was then known.

The *Catuli Melitenses*, or Maltese lap-dogs, were as celebrated in ancient, as they are in modern times. The *Vestes Melitenses*, of which Verres caused so many to be made, were probably manufactured with cotton, the principal production of these islands.

The Marchese Barbaro possesses a collection of medals and natural history; but I could not obtain admission to it, because he was indisposed, and absent in the country.

Before I take my leave of these islands, I cannot forbear drawing a parallel between the inhabitants and their neighbours, the Sicilians.

On Sicily, nature has lavished her most precious and valuable gifts. She has furnished it with all the necessaries, and even all the luxuries of life; with corn, wine, oil, fruits, fish, and a vast variety of useful plants. She has bestowed on it

the most fertile soil, perhaps, in Europe; as well as the most advantageous and excellent ports. She has everywhere scattered the seeds of commerce and wealth; but that spirit of industry is wanting, which alone can foster them, and bring them to maturity. Unaccustomed to fatigue, the Sicilian reluctantly scrapes the surface of his field, casts the seed into the furrow, and leaves the rest to Providence. The genial power of the soil anticipates his exertions, rewards his sluggish efforts with increase, and encourages his habitual indolence. Satisfied with ease, he dreams not of affluence. His dwelling is sordid, and even loathsome. He feels not the necessity of that incessant vigilance, which is required in the cultivation of a less favoured climate. In the morning, he mounts his ass, rides several miles to till his land, and after the scanty labours of a day, thus abridged, returns in the evening to his town residence. Such is the portrait of a Sicilian peasant, and the character of his happy soil.

How different a scene do the neighbouring shores of Malta and Gozo present. Here we find nature herself subdued by the persevering industry of man. A rocky surface, apparently incapable of vegetation, clothed with the fruits of successful toil, and furnishing resources for a numerous and increasing population. The peasant, cleanly, fru-

gal, honest, healthy, inured to fatigue, bearing with undiminished vivacity the scorching heats of this ardent climate, and owing to the labour of his hands, and the sweat of his brow, the blessings of abundance, and often of affluence.

FROM THE ISLANDS OF GOZO, BACK TO SICILY, TO CAPO PASSARO, NOTO, VIZZINI, AND CATANIA.

THURSDAY, June 17. After dinner I sailed from Gozo. For the greater part of the voyage the wind was still; but by the help of oars I reached Capo Passaro on

Friday, June 18, and found a welcome reception at the Prince of Villadorata's casino. Capo Passaro was distinguished by the ancients under the name of Pachynus, as forming the third promontory of Sicily.

> In matutinos Pachynos, producitur ortus.
> Præstat Trinacrii metas lustrare Pachyni.
> Hinc altas cautes projectaque saxa Pachyni
> Radimus.
>
> VIRGIL.

> Sicaniam tribus hæc excurrit in æquora linguis
> E quibus imbriferos versa est Pachynos ad austros.
>
> OVID.

The promontory extends a considerable way into the sea; and on it is situated the castle, which is guarded by a small garrison. It is separated from the main land of Sicily, with which some suppose it to have been originally connected. It is, however, mentioned as an island by Nonnus, and by Lycophron. Nonnus observes:—

> Et solum insulare à mari turbati Pachyni.

And Lycophron:—

> Cenotaphium verò scopulus insularis
> Pachynus habebit.

Formerly a small port existed, which bore the same name. It was probably situated on the opposite shore of Sicily, where the dilapidated remains of an old town and buildings are visible on the beach. This port is now called *Porto Longobardo.*

All the coast from hence to that near Sta. Croce, though now barren and desolate, yet exhibits the traces of remote population. This tract I did not visit; but Fazellus mentions the vestiges of a city near Porto Palo, of another at Marza and Castellazzo, and a third at Ficallo, where the church of Sta. Maria is built on the foundations of a heathen temple. At Porto di Castellazzo, both Fazellus and Cluverius place the promontory

or port of Ulysses, corruptly called *Edissæ Portus*, where the Greek hero erected a temple to Hecate, and raised a cenotaph to the memory of Hecuba.

I found myself so fatigued, and in so much need of repose, that I remained at Capo Passaro till

Monday, June 21, when I proceeded to Noto. The same wild, open, and uncultivated country continues, till within a short distance of that place; yet although it now exhibits so few signs of population, it was formerly thickly inhabited.

About four miles from Capo Passaro is a little modern village, still bearing the name of Pachyno. Afterwards, on the right, is a small habitation and territory, called St. Lorenzo, where are to be seen the prostrate fragments of a large city. Among the houses are some antique buildings, of which one, now used as a corn magazine, was apparently of grand proportions, and constructed with large stones. Near it is a smaller, in a good state of preservation, now used as a stable. It resembles those near Sta. Croce. Adjoining is another vaulted room, built with large stones, and apparently a continuation of the former: but all the arch doorways and passages are now closed.

Less than a mile distant, and within sight of the habitations, on an eminence nearer the sea, is another antique building, with niches, dome, &c. in its plan resembling the former.

I was informed, that beneath this edifice there is another subterraneous apartment, of which the roof is supported by columns; but it cannot now be explored, as the entrance is blocked up. This is probably the structure thus mentioned by Fazellus: "Sub quo ædes latet subterranea testudinei operis, columnis suffulta." In a field adjoining, I observed also two subterraneous vaults of a conical shape, and similar to the sepulchral grottos at Girgenti.

After examining these antiquities, I proceeded a few miles toward the sea coast, on the right, to visit the remains of the ancient city of Machara, which is mentioned by Cicero, and other classic authors. It was situated nearly opposite the watch-tower of Vindicari, on a peninsula, formed by a lake and salt-work, which communicate with the sea, and enclose it on three sides. The ruins are scattered over a vast extent of ground, but in so dilapidated a state, as to present only a chaos of stones. One building only has survived the devastation of time, which is described by Fazellus as "templum orbiculare et testudinatum, prisco artificio, ex quadratis lapidibus elaboratum."

The situation of this city was skilfully chosen, particularly if the present lake originally formed a port, or harbour, as it probably did. The *Ager Macharensis* is mentioned by Cicero, as fertile in corn. The port of Vindicari is supposed to have been the *Naustathmus* to which Pliny alludes, and the *Sinus Macharensis*. At the extremity of the city are many sepulchres, excavated in the rock. On the south-western side of the ruins, and among the corn fields, I discovered the traces of two old habitations; but small in comparison with that already described. The place, which Machara formerly occupied, is now called *La Cittadella*.

From hence I continued my journey through the plains *Stagnantis Helori*, and at Noto experienced a cordial reception from the Friars of St. Francis.

Tuesday, June 22. In the morning I visited the site of the ancient Noto, which was destroyed by the fatal earthquake of 1693. It was seven miles farther from the sea than the present city, and is thus accurately described by Fazellus:—

"Magno fluvii Assinari fonti moles quædam edita, saxosa et aspera, licet plana incubat, instat peninsulæ, cujus isthmus aquilonem respicit, satis undique fossis naturâ præcincta, ac munita asper-

rimisque rupibus circumsepta. In ea sita est urbs vetusta et ingens, Neæ Diodoro, Nætum Ptolomeo dictam. Habet duas portas: ad isthmum unam, cui et arx inhæret, alteram quà flumen et mare (a quo M. P. VIII recedit) petitur. Est eâ parte accessu difficilis; quippe cujus ascensus P. sit mille, obliquus, peracclivis, et arduus, maximâque ex parte excavatis rupibus manufactus, quem vel paucissimi viri facilè tueri possint."

Nætum was founded by Ducetius, king of the Siculi; and has been twice rebuilt, on different sites. Its first situation was still farther inland, at *l'Aguglia;* from whence it was again removed by Ducetius himself, as we find by the testimony of Diodorus:—

"Ducetius, Siculorum princeps, ex publico Siculorum ærario magnis instructus opibus, Neas, quæ patria ejus erat, in campum transtulit."

The second site is the most strongly fortified by nature of any I have yet seen. It enjoys a pure air, and commands an extensive view of the coast, as far as Capo Passaro. Beneath is the source of the river Asinarus, now *Fiume di Falconara*, bordered with a fine verdure, and fringed with a variety of trees. The ascent, which on this side is the only point of access, is, as Fazellus says,

formed by hand, the rock having been cut away for the purpose; and the entrance is through a narrow defile. The city extended about a mile in length, and at the opposite side, where natural fortifications are wanting, was defended by a very strong wall and bastions.

At present nothing appears but a confused heap of ruins; and the only inhabitants are a family of hermits. In vain I looked for traces of Grecian and Roman architecture, or for the buildings described by Fazellus; all have been demolished by the shock of earthquakes. One solitary monument, however, still exists, to attest the high antiquity of the place. It is a Greek inscription, which is cut in the native rock, and appears to have been placed over the door of some structure, probably the Gymnasium. It is separated from the principal mass of stone, and has fallen down. The letters are of a slender form, and many of them defaced. This inscription lies on the right hand, near the walls of the city; and the place itself bears the vulgar appellation of *Grotto del Gymnasio.*

Wednesday, June 23. Left Noto, and traversed the mountains to Palazzolo, by a very rough and stony road, and through a wild uncultivated country. Fazellus and Cluverius differ with regard to

the ancient appellation of Palazzolo. The first suppose it to be the site of Acræ; the latter of Erbessus, which Fazellus places at Pantalica. At all events some ancient city stood near the spot, which I am inclined to think was Acræ; because several medals have been found here, bearing an inscription with that name; and the mountain is still called *Acre Monte*.

On this mountain are very extensive catacombs, similar in shape to those which are scattered throughout other parts of Sicily and Malta: but little scope is left for the investigation of the curious; for many of the passages are closed, and others are become impracticable. I was shewn a subterraneous passage, said to belong to a palace of King Hiero; and was informed that a Greek inscription, with the words *Rex Hiero*, had been used by the Dominicans in some building. In a small valley beneath, and near a spring which issues from a cavity in the rock, are some fragments of antiquity, which deserve notice for their singularity. They are unlike any others in Sicily, and seem peculiar to this district. In niches, formed in the rock, are figures cut in basso relievo. The principal is a female, the size of life; and it is often surrounded with others, of smaller dimensions. Most of them bear crowns, similar to those usually given to the goddess Cybele. I could dis-

cover no traces of any inscription. These sculptures have suffered much from inattention; the forms of several are distinguished with the greatest difficulty, and all the faces are totally destroyed. They have been little noticed by travellers, and no one has attempted to explain their use or signification.

The situation of Palazzolo is lofty; and it is celebrated for its magazine of snow, from which the neighbouring cities of Noto, Syracuse, &c. are supplied. To this Silius Italicus alludes:—

> Non Thapsos, non e tumulis, glacialibus Acræ
> Defuerunt.

Perhaps the following lines of Virgil likewise refer to Acræ:—

> Haud procul hinc saxo colitur fundata vetusto
> Urbis Agyllinæ sedes.

I lodged at the convent of the Padri Osservanti, situated immediately under Acre Monte.

Thursday, June 24. I spent the morning in visiting some remains of antiquity in the neighbourhood of Palazzolo. The first was the original city of Noto, situated on a spot, now called *l'Aguglia*, from the remains of a square pyramid, said to have

been erected in memory of some victory, by Ducetius king of the Siculi. I observed evident traces of the city; but its situation was not strong, agreeable, or advantageous. It was seated on a small eminence, surrounded by others of the same shape and height; and neither commands a fine view, nor possesses any natural strength. From hence, as I have before observed, it was removed by Ducetius the founder, some miles nearer the sea; but I cannot account for the expression of Diodorus, in recording the fact, *in campum transtulit*, because the second situation was much more elevated than the first. At all events it enjoyed all the advantages which were wanting in the first.

After the fatal earthquake, which destroyed the second Noto, in 1693, the inhabitants removed to the spot now occupied by the modern city. But they certainly did not choose a preferable situation, for it is more exposed to the heats, and enjoys a less fresh and salubrious air. The present inhabitants regret the defective judgment of their ancestors in making the change, particularly as two places within their own territory would have offered considerable facilities for commerce; namely, the Port of Vindicari, and that of Palo, near Capo Passaro. All the southern coast of Sicily is destitute of good ports, and those of Trapani and

Girgenti are reckoned among the best. Porto Palo, however, is superior to them all; as from its situation, near the promontory, it is much frequented by vessels from Malta, and those bound to the Levant. The saline, or lake, skirting the ancient city of Machara, near the *Porto di Vindicari*, might have been rendered a complete and commodious harbour, at a small expense. Either of these situations would have been far more advantageous, on every account, than that of Noto; but the interest of a few potent families prevailed in the choice of a spot, which was contiguous to their own domains.

At a short distance from *l'Aguglia* I returned to a thick forest of oaks, in the midst of which lies a narrow valley, flanked on each side by lofty rocks, and watered by a small rivulet. In these rocks, which seem to have been rendered inaccessible by nature, are several old habitations excavated. They are few in number, but on a larger scale than those at Ispica, except that called the *Castello*. By the help of ladders I visited the three best, which consist of four stories each. The communications between the different stories are partly by means of staircases, and partly by circular openings, in which holes are cut for the feet, like those in the *Castello d'Ispica*. In one is a fine winding staircase, well preserved. The

apartments, which are numerous, are formed without any attention to symmetry or order. At the extremity of the valley, in the same manner as at Ispica, was the place of interment, which is evident from many sepulchres visible in the rock. The bold elevation of the rocks, the detached masses of stone scattered beneath, the fine and aged trees, and the mixture of verdure and water, afford many picturesque scenes. At the entrance, on the side of *l'Aguglia*, I observed a basso relievo, sculptured in the rock, of a small figure, standing, and bearing the appearance of a warrior. Close above it are two circular holes, which are closed up. Several smaller caverns and habitations are cut in other parts of the rocks, bordering the valley. Not far distant from the baronial mansion, a pavement of very large bricks was found, together with some columns of porphyry; and in the neighbourhood, as well as in the forest, are many remains of ancient habitations, built in the usual style, with large stones.

At some distance is a place called *Valle e Grotto dell' Armata*, and *Piano della guerra*, where there are basso relievos, sculptured in the rock, representing warriors. According to tradition, this spot was the scene of a battle, and the figures are memorials of a victory gained here by King Ducetius.

In the neighbourhood, and near the hermitage called Sta. Lucia della Mendola, are the vestiges of another ancient city, supposed to be Mendè.

For the information which I obtained relative to this district, I was indebted to Don Paolo Albergo, of Palazzolo, and the Baron of the *Feudo di Bauli*. They not only answered my inquiries, but obligingly accompanied me to the ancient residences which I have described.

After dinner, I left Palazzolo, and proceeded by a rough and steep ascent towards Vizzini. The mountains round Palazzolo, to the left of my road, were well cultivated, and clothed with corn and vineyards. I passed the petty villages of Buscherni and Buccheri. The situation of the Capucin Convent at the latter place is picturesque. Caught a view of Mount Ætna, the lake and plain of Lentini, and a long reach of mountains and sea coast toward Taormina. The road still rough, with continual ascents and descents; the country, in general, rich in corn. Approaching Vizzini, its aspect becomes more gay; the mountains are varied, and clothed with corn and vines; a river washes the valley beneath; and the eye is relieved with the foliage of trees. I lodged at the convent of St. Agostino, without the town. The classical name of Vizzini was Bidis, and it is thus mention-

ed by Cicero. "Bidis oppidulum est tenue sanè, non longè a Syracusis." As I heard of no vestiges of antiquity in its neighbourhood, I continued my journey on

Friday, June 25, by a rough descent of some miles, to the Lake or Riviere of Lentini, which is an extensive sheet of water, reflecting the outline of Mount Ætna, though at so great a distance; but its banks exhibit no picturesque scenery. After taking refreshment at a miserable *fondaco*, to which the vaulted black roofs, and groups of sun-burnt, dirty, and deformed peasants, gave the appearance of a jail rather than an inn, I proceeded by a level and good road to Catania, and entered by the same gate as in my former journey from Lentini.

Sunday, June 27. Having in my former visit attentively examined the principal antiquities of Catania, I found few objects to detain me the second time. After dinner, yesterday, I made a short excursion to Licatia, Le Pere, and Sta. Sofia, all adjoining the city. At Licatia, the small domestic chapel, attached to the villa of the Benedictines, which is ornamented with three niches, bears some marks of antiquity without, but within it is modernised with plaster and paint. *Alle Pere*, situated on an estate belonging to Cavaliere Gioeni,

is a small building, in the form of a cross, surmounted in the middle with a cupola. It is by some supposed to have been a *laconico*, by others a temple, but it bears more an appearance of the former. At Sta. Sofia are the remains of some old buildings, and a few broken columns of granite and cipolino. The eminence itself commands a pleasing and advantageous view of Catania. All these structures have undergone so many reparations, that little of the antique is left. Indeed, they are on so small a scale, and in so indifferent a style, that they merit little attention; like many other antiquities at Catania, which have been too highly praised by the native writer, Biscaris.

This morning I visited a subterraneous vault, under the church of St. Euplio. Various niches in the walls prove it to have been used as a sepulchre.

JOURNEY TO MOUNT ÆTNA.

After dinner I left Catania, and directed my course toward Mount Ætna, the summit of which bears a different appearance from that which it exhibited in my former journey, and affords me reason to hope that I shall succeed in attaining it. On leaving the city, and taking the road along the sea shore, the first objects which strike the eye are a long and extensive course of lava on the right, and on the left a clustered mass of India fig, olive, almond, and fig trees. While the lava on the right bears the signs of incipient vegetation, a more recent lava, totally barren, succeeds on each side. Soon after I reached the small port, called Lognina, which is supposed to be that celebrated by the classic poets, particularly by Virgil, in these lines,

> Portus ab accessu ventorum immotus, et ingens
> Ipse; sed horrificis juxta tonat Ætna ruinis.

At present it bears no semblance to the portrait thus drawn; but when we reflect on the changes frequently effected by the eruptions of the volcano, and observe the sea driven back, and converted into land, as is the case near the castle of Catania, we may safely credit the description of the poet. A little beyond are three conical rocks, composed of basalt. At a short distance from the land are *Li Faraglioni*, supposed to be the *Tres Scopuli Cyclopum*, mentioned by Pliny, and other authors; and adjoining is the Castello di Aci, built on a rugged rock, of volcanic production, projecting into the sea, and strongly fortified by nature. About two miles farther, Cluverius places the river Acis, so often commemorated by the poets; and the abode of the amorous Galatea and her lover Acis.

> Quique per Ætneos Acis petit æquora fines
> Et dulci gratiam Nereida perluit undâ.
>
> SILIUS ITAL.

> Lucus erat prope flumen Acim quod condita præfert
> Sæpe mari pulchroque secat Galatea natatu.
>
> CLAUDIAN.

Fazellus, however, without much reason, assigns the name of Acis to the *Fiume Freddo*, near Taormina. The stream in question, which I passed, is limpid, though not large; but it may

have been diminished by the many eruptions of the mountain. During the whole journey from Catania to Aci, lavas of different ages were continually before my eyes, exhibiting the most striking testimony of a long and extensive series of volcanic devastations. This tract furnishes ample food for a poetic imagination. Fancy might here be quickened by a local interest, in dwelling on the loves of Acis and Galatea; the persecutions of the Cyclops Polypheme, the rival and enemy of Acis; and the wanderings of Ulysses, so beautifully described by Homer, Virgil and Ovid. But the calm observer, who seeks for historical facts, not fables, will find little entertainment on this dreary shore. In some places the force of nature has subdued the hard surface of the lava, and produced a flourishing vegetation.

Monday, June 28. I retraced a part of the road from Catania, to see a piece of antiquity, at a place called St. Venere, between two and three miles from Aci. It consists of two vaulted rooms, probably intended for baths. In the ceiling are several round apertures, into which earthen pipes are inserted, I imagine to admit the light. Some adjacent ruins appear to have been a continuation of this building; and at a small distance rises a spring of sulphureous water, which probably supplied the baths. Numerous votive offerings, sus-

pended on the walls of the small neighbouring church, indicate the credit, estimation, and miraculous powers of the patron saint.

I again returned to Aci, and from thence proceeded to *Le Giarre*. Of all the towns and villages which I have visited in my two successive tours, Aci is the only place where I had reason to complain of incivility from the people to whom I have been recommended. Monsignore Biscaris gave me circular letters to the different Segreti in the Val di Noto and Demone, begging them to procure me lodgings in some convent. But the Segreto of Aci would give me no kind of assistance. My *campieri*, however, found me a decent inn, where I was well accommodated.

Aci is a large and populous town, containing, as I was informed, twenty-five thousand inhabitants. Preparations were here making for a large fair, during which no entrance duty is exacted on goods and merchandise. Near Aci, the lava is of great antiquity, as appears from the state of vegetation. A more modern, and less productive, range succeeds; but on approaching *Le Giarre* the prospect on each side enlivens, and the country becomes gay and cultivated. In front is an extensive view of the plain, the coast, and the mountains of Taormina; with those of Calabria in the back

ground. On the left, the lofty summit of Mount Ætna, and the rich and fertile regions beneath, variegated with wood, vineyards, and corn fields. The road is rough and bad, traversing hard unbroken masses of lava.

After dinner, I mounted my mule, to visit the celebrated chesnut tree, called *La Castagna di cento cavalli.* The distance from *Le Giarre* is about five miles, and the journey employed no less than two hours. The road is rugged and steep, over old currents of lava, which, however, produce a strong vegetation, and are shaded by oaks, chesnuts, cherries, fig-trees, mulberries, &c. I passed through the two hamlets of St. Giovanni and St. Alfeo, and ascended to a plain, bearing corn and vines, in which this singular chesnut tree is situated. Its appellation announces something marvellous, and its long-established fame renders it an object of interest to every Sicilian traveller. I visited it, therefore, from principle and curiosity; but I confess its first appearance struck me with no surprise. Had not an experiment been made, by digging, to ascertain that all the roots are united, I should have questioned the veracity of those who assert it to be a single tree; for at present it is divided into five distinct bodies, and some of the five appear to have been never joined together. If they really once formed a single

trunk, this tree must have been a master-piece of nature, the monster of the vegetable creation, and on a scale answerable to the Cyclops, with whom poetry has peopled this region; as according to my measurement its circumference must have amounted to about an hundred and seventy feet! It still continues to vegetate; for though the heart has perished, the bark pushes forth young branches. Adjoining are other trees of an astonishing size, though not equal to this. Two are called *La Nave* and *L'Imperio*, the first of noble size and great height. These three are distinguished by the royal mark, to secure them from the stroke of the axe.

Tuesday, June 29. I left a tolerable little inn at *Le Giarre;* and proceeded through the villages of Tre Castagne, Lapidara, and Nicolosi, to St. Nicolo dell' Arena, a retreat, or *ospizio*, belonging to the Benedictines of Catania. The distance is about fifteen miles; the roads in general good; the country pleasant, bearing vines, corn, and fruit-trees; varied with numerous volcanic and conical hills, richly wooded, and sprinkled with villages and cottages. After leaving Lapidara, the soil becomes less fertile, being a hard lava, reduced into a fine dust; but still producing vines and fig-trees. Nicolosi is a small dreary village. Behind it is Monte Rosso; from whence issued the dreadful eruption

of 1669, which flowed down to Catania, repelled the sea several paces, and surrounded the castle. It still retains a reddish hue, from which it derives its name; and its whole surface is barren and dreary. At a short distance is the *ospizio* of St. Nicolo, inhabited by a single friar, who has resided there twenty-seven years. After quitting the bleak and dismal environs of Monte Rosso, this retreat appeared a terrestrial paradise. Immediately behind it are two volcanic mountains, planted with vines, and above towers the stupendous summit of Mount Ætna. The immediate vicinity is shaded, and adorned with some fine trees; and a picturesque grove of pines is tastefully placed before the front of the building, which commands an extensive view of the sea, Catania, and the places beyond. Three times have the Benedictines been driven from their abode by eruptions and earthquakes, and thrice their establishment has risen from its ashes. Twice, like true cenobites, devoted to seclusion and to God, they inhabited the mountain; they then retired to the city, from whence they were driven by the earthquakes, which destroyed it in 1693. If I may judge from their situation, the size of their buildings, &c. I should conclude that they have reached the limit of their wealth and greatness. Had I not brought with me a stock of provisions, I should have fared worse than a fellow traveller, who says, " Nous

trouvames à St. Nicolo dell' Arena toute la frugalitè des antiques cenobites; c'est à dire quatre œufs pour huit, que nous etions;" for I could not find even a single egg. I offered the friar a small recompense for his trouble, which he refused on his own account, but accepted it for the sake of his servant.

About four o'clock I left the *ospizio*, and ascended the mountain, over a barren lava, exhibiting no sign of cultivation, nor any trace of man. A few trees alone had escaped its ravages, and stood insulated amidst the currents of the hardened mass. I then entered what is called the woody region, having on my right the lava of 1763, and others of different ages. This forest consists almost entirely of oaks, with fine trunks, but deprived of their beauty by the lopping of the branches. I here observed some flocks of sheep, goats, cows, and oxen, with their shepherds and keepers; but no other sign of population. In two hours, by a good road, and easy ascent, I arrived at the *Grotto delle Capre*, the resting-place generally chosen by those whose curiosity leads them to the summit of this volcano. The lava has formed this cavern at a very convenient distance; but though sufficiently capacious to contain several persons in a recumbent posture, is so low that I could not stand upright when within it. Immediately on our arrival,

my guides employed themselves in cutting wood, and collecting leaves; and a large fire soon warmed our habitation, and cheered the company. Some excellent milk and curds, added to the provisions which we had brought, composed a frugal supper. At the close of the day we lay down to gain some sleep, or at least repose. I could not, however, refrain from contemplating our situation. The reflection of the fire from the dark vault of our cavern; the bright rays of the moon, which shone directly upon us from without; and the different groups of our company, stretched in various postures; composed a picture, which was not unworthy the pencil of Salvator Rosa.

At one in the morning we remounted our mules, and began to ascend. I had taken the precaution of providing flambeaux; but the brightness of the moon rendered them useless. The ascent was over a loose sand, easy, and in general smooth. I felt no inconvenience from the cold, till I approached the *Piano di Frumento*, when a bleak northerly wind obliged me to dismount, and walk. Near the *Torre del Filosofo*, we left our mules, for the remainder of our journey was to be performed on foot; the eruption in August, 1789, having precluded all farther progress in any other manner. Hitherto our journey had been perfectly easy, and unattended with fatigue or difficulty; but two

miles of steep and rugged ascent yet remained; "*hoc opus, hic labor est.*"

Having refreshed ourselves with some *rosolio*, or *liqueurs*, we began traversing a rough sea of lava, and afterwards some sheets of snow, which being frozen, and covered with cinders, supported our footsteps. We then came to the steep ascent of the first mountain, leading towards the crater, which was rendered difficult by the looseness of the cinders. We, however, reached the summit almost half an hour before sun-rise, and about three hours after the departure from our nocturnal habitation. Impatient to enjoy the magnificent prospect which the descriptions of preceding travellers had taught me to expect, I anxiously turned my eyes to catch the first rays of returning day, and tacitly chided the tardiness of the sun. At length it rose behind the mountains of Calabria, and gradually diffused its beams over the island of Sicily; while the mountain on which I stood, threw its lengthened and pyramidal shadow towards the west. The sulphureous vapour and smoke, driven by the northerly wind, screened from my view the eastern extremity of the mountain, and the vast tract of land and sea toward Apulia, the Adriatic, and the coast of Messina. But I traced the shore, from Taormina to Catania, Augusta, Syracuse, and Capo Passaro. I natu-

rally looked for the higher mountains of the island, as so many land-marks, and recognised those of Castro Giovanni, the Heræi, and Nebrodes, and St. Calogero, near Termine; but a slight vapour prevented me from distinguishing the features of the country beyond. Some authors have asserted that they could descry Mount Eryx, near Trapani, and others even Malta; but the latter I think impossible. I traced great part of my journey, as on a map. Beneath, the lake of Lentini appeared diminished almost to a spot; and the river Symæthus wound in various meanders through the plain at my feet. Although this is the most extensive prospect I ever beheld, I will not imitate the conduct of many travellers, who seem to have vied with each other in exaggerated descriptions; but will candidly confess that it did not answer my previous expectations. I had been led to believe, that, from this exalted situation, I should find the whole island, and the sea which washes its shores, within the compass of my view. But I believe the elevation of Mount Ætna, in point of perspective with the more distant mountains, is not sufficiently great for the eye to embrace such a circumference; and indeed the mountain itself breaks in upon a considerable part of the horizon, as the highest pinnacle is inaccessible to man.

After observing the sun rise, and contemplating

its ascent, I mounted about half a mile higher, to the *ne plus ultra*. However disappointed in my first expectation, with regard to the majestic prospect, so emphatically described by every traveller, I was most amply repaid by the spectacle now displayed before me. It would be an impracticable task either to express my feelings, or to paint its horrors. Even the glowing colours, in which a Dante and a Milton have depicted the infernal regions of fire and tempest, would convey a very inadequate idea of the crater of Ætna. One vast unfathomable abyss, breathing forth volumes of thick smoke, was so close beneath me, that I stood within a few paces of its dreadful verge. Beyond was another infinitely greater, throwing out so dense a vapour, that its circumference, and precipitous border were seen only as through a thick fog. From hence issued a continued roar, like that of a tempestuous sea. These two gulfs are separated by a narrow ridge of rock; and above the last, towers a lofty pinnacle, the highest point of the mountain, incessantly vomiting forth a thick volume of smoke, mixed with flames. I found the air so tempered by the volcanic fire, that I examined this awful prospect without inconvenience. I even sat down to draw, and make a sketch of the crater. I had begun my work, but soon found, from the heat which I felt beneath my feet, that I had taken my post on a heated

stufa. I therefore changed my place, and continued my occupation. Had time permitted, I could have remained for hours on this spot; for I did not experience the least unpleasant sensation, either from the cold, or the vapours of the crater. With regret I retraced my steps, and descended to the *Torre del Filosofo*, my imagination deeply impressed with the scene I had just witnessed; and fully satisfied with the favourable circumstances which had combined to render this expedition so complete. The origin and intent of this tower being unknown, many conjectures have been hazarded on the subject. Some have ascribed it to Empedocles, the famous philosopher of Agrigentum; some consider it as a temple, originally dedicated to Vulcan, or as a sepulchral monument; others as a building erected for the reception of the Emperor Adrian, when he visited Ætna; and, finally, some regard it as a work of the Normans. Whatever was its destination, the part which now remains rises only a few feet above the ground. Its dimensions are small; and it is constructed with lava, and cemented by mortar.

I returned to the Grotto, taking the same path by which I had ascended, and reached it, after an absence of about seven hours. I had now an opportunity of contemplating the noble scenery,

which darkness had before concealed from my view. On approaching the woody region, it appeared in a more pleasing light, as the distant and extensive prospect was relieved by a verdant foreground. Numberless conical hills are scattered over the sides of the mountain; some clothed with aged forests, others bearing the recent marks of their volcanic origin. Above the parent summit raised its rugged and aspiring head, and seemed to threaten an increase of its tremendous progeny.

Ætna is naturally divided into three regions: the cultivated, the woody, and the region of ice, or lava. The first may be said to extend as far as Nicolosi; the second to the *Grotto delle Capre;* and the third from thence to the summit. From Catania to the highest point, the distance is computed at about thirty miles, *viz.* to Nicolosi twelve, to the *Ospizio* of St. Nicolo dell'Arena two, to the *Grotto delle Capre* eight, and to the crater eight more. Above the Grotto, vegetation almost ceased, for I found only a few dwarf plants; and observed many large heaps of snow, overspread with ashes, or the dust of lava. These belong to the Prince of Paterno.

I was surprised to find the ascent to Ætna so easy, and the road so good; because I was led to expect the contrary from the descriptions of tra-

vellers, who perhaps never reached the summit. Indeed, I was far more fatigued in ascending Vesuvius, which is but a molehill in comparison, owing to the looseness of the ashes.

Having rested an hour at the Grotto, and refreshed ourselves with milk and curds, furnished by the neighbouring *mandre*, or goat-folds, we mounted our mules, and descended to Bronte. A great part of our track led through forests of firs, oaks, &c. On this portion of the mountain, the wood is so abundant, as almost to make up for its deficiency in other parts of Sicily. Here Ætna seems to assume a new shape: it loses its conical form, rears its extensive base from the midst of a thick forest, and terminates in a flat summit. Its rugged and dusky head, striped with snow, is strikingly contrasted with the lively verdure beneath. I crossed various lavas of ancient and modern date; some only eight years old. On this side of the mountain the eruptions have been dreadful; the lava presents the aspect of an ocean suddenly congealed in the midst of a tempest. Leaving this forest I turned to the left, towards Bronte, crossing a long and extensive tract of lava. Imagination cannot figure a more complete scene of desolation; nature itself seems as if vanquished by the fiery element; and nothing is seen but an almost boundless plain of this indurated substance,

surmounted by the majestic form of the mountain, from which it has been disgorged. I perceived no trace of human habitation during this journey of eighteen tedious miles; nor, indeed, did I observe Bronte, till I approached its walls. I arrived almost exhausted with fatigue, having been fourteen hours on foot, or on my mule, besides losing a night's rest. I fortunately found a neat little inn, where my servant, who had been sent with a litter round the opposite side of the mountain, had prepared a dinner.

Bronte is a small town, situated amidst a sea of lava, by which it is overlooked. It is supposed to have derived its name from the Cyclops Brontes, who, according to vulgar tradition, inhabited Mount Ætna.

FROM BRONTE TO TROINA, NICOSIA, GANGI, POLIZZI, TERMINE, AND PALERMO.

FRIDAY, July 2. Finding myself sufficiently recovered from fatigue, I left Bronte at break of day, and directed my course to Troina, which I reached in less than six hours. The descent from Bronte is rough and steep, across a torrent of lava, which in its course forms a series of elevations and hollows, until it is stopped by the valley and river beneath. I now joyfully bade adieu to these volcanic regions, and pursued my way through a corn country, along the bank of the river Symæthus. The road, in many parts rugged and narrow, must be impassable during the winter season. A small castle, built on an insulated rock, with the river beneath, rushing amidst broken masses of stone, in the foreground; in the second, a well-wooded mountain, and in the distance, the towering summit of Ætna, presented to the eye a well

composed, yet wild and majestic, landscape: the only prospect which awakened the slightest interest in the course of this journey. I ascended by a steep path to Troina, which is built on an eminence. Finding no room at the Franciscan convent, I recurred to the Capucins, and experienced a welcome reception.

Troina is supposed to have been the Imachara, mentioned by Cicero, *in Verrem*, and still bears some marks of antiquity. The original city stood on nearly the same ground as the present, but stretched more into the plain, towards the convent of the Padri Basiliani. In laying the foundations of this structure, numerous sepulchres were discovered, containing many curious relics, such as vases, lachrymatoria, idols, and small earthen figures, of which one of the friars has formed a small collection. Among the earthen articles is a female figure, very graceful and well proportioned. The museum of Biscaris, as well as that of the Benedictines, at Catania, have been enriched by the monuments and relics drawn from hence. A few scattered stones were the only traces I could discover of the former city. On an adjoining mountain, named St. Panton, was formerly an antique building, called *Panteone*, of which only a few stones remain. A little beneath the Capucin convent is a reservoir for water, old, but not

antique. The Padri Basiliani, like the Benedictines of Catania, have successively occupied different habitations, in various places; and at each remove have crept nearer the city. At first they dwelt in the thick woods of St. Leo; like Goldsmith's Hermit,

> Remote from man, with God they pass'd their days,
> Prayer all their profit: all their pleasure praise.

The remains of their second abode are yet seen on a pinnacle, beneath the modern convent, which is a fine building, though incomplete, at a short distance from the city, and agreeably situated. They received their endowment from King Ruggieri, who erected on this spot the first episcopal see, which was afterwards transferred to Messina.

The church, built by this monarch, has lost much of its antique character by modern reparations. The columns, as in other instances, have been cased up with pilasters, and the steeple alone remains in its original state. Some suppose that this church was erected on the foundation of the castle belonging to the old city. Under the hospital, as well as under the church, considerable fragments are yet extant, of walls built of large stones without mortar; and these are the only genuine remains of antiquity which I found at Troina.

Troina commands, on every side, a most extensive view. In one direction, Mount Ætna, with a part of the sea coast of Catania: in the other, numerous towns and villages, among which I recognised Gagliano, St. Filippo d'Argiro, Caropipi, Castro Giovanni, Calascibetta, Nicosia, Petralia, Gangi, Capizzi, Cerami, Assoro, &c.

Saturday, July 3. Continued my journey through an open corn country, ascending and descending, to Nicosia, which I reached in about six hours. The ascent to the town is steep; and on this side the place has suffered much by the sinking of the earth. It is situated in a wild, rocky, and mountainous country. The houses, like those at Modica, are built on the declivities of different hills, and overlooked by an old castle, occupying the most elevated part of the rock, which is said to have been constructed by King Ruggieri. The cathedral is also in the Norman style. The Capucin convent, where I lodged, is placed in the most advantageous situation, and commands the best view of the environs. A grove attached to it consists of fine oaks, pines, and cypresses; and might be rendered a most delicious garden. I was surprised to find among these unfrequented mountains such unaffected civility and attention as I experienced from the two superiors of the convents at Troina and Nicosia.

After dinner I mounted my mule, with a reverend father as my guide, in order to visit the remains of Herbita. With regard to its situation, Cluverius differs from Fazellus, who appears to have followed the opinion of Ptolemy, in placing it at *La Citatella*, near Daidone, and not far from Piazza. Cluverius, however, adopts the more general supposition, that it once existed on a spot now called *Li Casalini*, six or seven miles from Nicosia, among the mountains to the northward. I say once, because, on an attentive examination, I could scarcely distinguish a single stone which I should deem antique. In an insulated rock, however, I observed various sepulchres excavated. Possibly the cultivation of the land may have obliterated all the vestiges which escaped the destruction of time; for though there are certain signs of a habitation, they do not bear a decisive character of antiquity.

The general tradition of Nicosia not only points out this spot as the site of Herbita, but designates it as the parent city. Indeed the situation is much more advantageous and agreeable than that of Nicosia; less rugged, and more abundant in pastures. It is also better supplied with water, which is scarce at Nicosia. The continual wars, which prevailed in Sicily during the æra of the Saracens, seem to have driven the inhabitants from

the more open and exposed towns, and induced them to establish themselves in spots, which were strongly fortified by nature. Hence we may account for the rugged, singular, and inconvenient situation of many Sicilian towns, particularly those in the interior of the island.

On Monte Artesino, adjoining Nicosia, as I was informed by a native, various grottos and habitations are cut in the rock. There is also a spring, which produces pitch, or bitumen.

Sunday, July 4. Early in the morning I proceeded to Gangi, through an open corn country, yielding the best crops I had hitherto seen. The ears of grain were particularly large. In four hours I reached the *fondaco*, situated in the bottom beneath Gangi. I was furnished with letters from the Prince of Gangi to his Segreto; but I preferred passing a few hours in a miserable habitation, to the trouble of ascending the steep eminence on which the town stands. My dining-room was the sacristy of a small church, and my attendant a hideous woman, with a goitre, an excrescence which appears to be prevalent in these mountains. I found some steep and bad passages in the road under Nicosia, as well as near Gangi. I passed to the right of the little town and strong castle of Sperlinga, noted as the only place which did not

join in the celebrated massacre of the Sicilian vespers. This gave rise to the verse

Quod Siculis placuit, sola Sperlinga negavit.

The ancient city of Engyum is supposed to have been situated near Gangi; perhaps at *Gangi vetus*, two miles from the modern town. This last bears a good appearance, being built, as is usual in this district, on the side and summit of a steep eminence.

After a few hours rest, I again proceeded, and in four hours and a half reached Polizzi. There is little variety in the road between Gangi and Polizzi, the country being chiefly cultivated with corn, and near the latter city planted with vines. During the day's journey, I saw several towns, among the mountains to the right, namely, Geraci, St. Mauro, Petralia, Soprana, and Soltana; one of which was the ancient Petra, mentioned by the classic authors. Near it is a celebrated spring, producing a salutary oil. I crossed the *Himera Meridionalis*. On approaching Polizzi, a striking view presents itself. The lofty Madonie mountains, sloping down in well cultivated declivities; beyond them an extensive range of heights reached as far as Monte Calogero, near Termine, and Monte Pellegrino, near Palermo; and in the

midst, Polizzi, situated on an abrupt eminence, enlivened with the rays of a beautiful setting sun, presented one of the most pleasing scenes I have witnessed during my tour. Polizzi was of so little fame in former times, that even its original appellation is unknown. Some have called it Polisium, from *Polis Isidis*, the city of Isis. At present, however, it can boast of no monument of antiquity. Some years ago a marble figure with a triple head, supposed to represent Isis, was preserved under the baptismal font in the cathedral; but it offended the piety of the late bishop, who caused it to be broken to pieces. After repeated inquiries, I could gain no intelligence respecting any remains of earlier date than the Saracenic or Norman, particularly the latter. The city, though now reduced in population, was once well inhabited. Its elevated situation renders it healthy; it commands a beautiful view; and its territory is productive, particularly of nuts and mushrooms, which grow on the Madonie mountains. These mountains, the *Nebrodes* of the classic writers, are also rich in aromatic and medicinal herbs, and on that account are much visited by herbalists and botanists. I was received with the utmost hospitality at the Franciscan Convent.

Monday, July 5. Left Polizzi for Termine, where I arrived in seven hours and a half. The

descent to the river is long and steep. I continued for some way on the side of the Madonie mountains, which are richly wooded and well cultivated. Proceeded down a declivity to the *Himera Septentrionalis*, which falls into the sea near Termine. A neighbouring village afforded a delightful scene. Some old decayed trees, a rapid stream, rushing under a broken bridge; cottages rising amidst festoons of vines, luxuriant orange groves, and the lofty range of the Madonie, as a back ground, composed a charming rural picture, which I would gladly have preserved by a drawing, had I not been prevented by the scorching rays of the sun.

After crossing the Himera several times, and enjoying much wild mountain scenery, I turned to the left, and soon entered the road, which I had before taken from Termine to Caltavoturo.

Having dined at Caltavoturo, I mounted in my carriage, and at night reached Palermo, thus completing, most prosperously, a journey of six hundred and sixty-one miles.

PALERMO AND ITS ENVIRONS.

PANORMUS, the original name of this city, is evidently Greek, and bears a double interpretation; *Totus portus*, or *Totus hortus*. The first is generally adopted, as indicating the excellence of the port; though from the altered state of the city and its vicinity, we cannot now say how justly it was applied. It was not known under any other appellation than Panormus, a strong proof that it derived its origin from the Greeks; though from an ancient inscription in Chaldean characters, which was once preserved in the tower Baych, some have inferred that its primitive inhabitants were emigrants from Chaldea and Damascus. Fazellus dates its foundation 3360 before Christ. Thucydides records, that, with Soluntum and Motya, it was occupied by the Phœnicians. It afterwards fell into the power of the Carthaginians; and, before the Punic war, was considered as their

capital in the island. It was then divided into two parts, the old and new. The latter was assaulted and taken by the Romans, in the first Punic war: and soon after, the old city was compelled to surrender. After the defeat of the Carthaginian general Asdrubal, by Cecilius Metellus, it entered into an alliance with Rome, and obtained the honours and privileges of a free city. The *Respublica Panhormitanorum* appears in many old inscriptions, yet extant. One of these records the alliance with Rome, and the origin of the Prætorship; and exhibits an eagle, as the arms of the city. Historians have commemorated the spirit of its female inhabitants, who, during a siege, when hemp was wanting, cut off their hair to make bowstrings for the archers. Panormus continued stedfast in its connection with Rome; and when Syracuse was besieged, it tripled the supply of auxiliary succours, which the other confederate cities sent to Marcellus. Hence the verse of Silius Italicus:—

Tergemino venit numero fœcunda Panormos.

After the fall of the Roman empire, it became, in 515, subject to the Greeks of Constantinople. Under the reign of Justinian, it was seized by the Goths; but being recovered by Belisarius, it continued a dependency of the Greek empire, until

826; when it was reduced by the Saracens, who made it their metropolis. After remaining in their power two centuries, it fell into the hands of the Normans; and, since that period, has been successively under the dominion of different nations.

We can form an idea of the ports, theatre, and temples of Panormus, only from the descriptions of different authors, who wrote while they were in existence; for at present all the monuments of the Greek and Roman æras are swept away, except the collection of statues and inscriptions, preserved in the Senate House. The two last, which survived the lapse of ages, were the towers called Baych and Pharat, of which Fazellus laments the destruction, in terms of grief and indignation:—

"Quæ tandem et ipsa, prostratis ab imperitis ejus molibus in mercium artificumque officinas profanata est, miserrimo sanè ac flebili bonorum omnium spectaculo, qui ante oculos nostros cernebamus admirandæ majestatis Panormitanæ non cadavera; sed integra, et viva ipsa propugnacula, omnium quæ habet Italia, vetustissima, non injuriâ temporum collabi, neque ab hostibus subrui, sed ab ipsis improbis civibus, detestando etiam senatus consulti decreto prosterni."

There is not now even the slightest vestige of its ancient port, which entered into the heart of the city, and conveyed vessels to the very doors of the inhabitants.

The large bay of Palermo is formed by the Monte Catalfano, on one side, and Monte Pellegrino, on the other. At the extremity of this sweep, and under Monte Pellegrino, is the present port, with its mole, far inferior to the ancient, and by no means deserving the name of Panormus. Adjoining the city was the river Orethus, on the banks of which Asdrubal was defeated by Metellus. Its name is now changed to Admirati, from Georgio Admirato, who built the bridge by which it is traversed. Monte Pellegrino, now much frequented from devotion to Sta Rosalia, is supposed to have been the site of Ercta, a strong castle, where the Carthaginians encamped. Of its local situation and peculiarities, Polybius has left a minute account:—

"Amilcar Barcas, the Carthaginian general, having wasted all the lands of the Brutii and the Locrians, steered his course with the whole fleet to Sicily, and encamped in a certain place upon the coast, between Eryx and Panormus; whose situation was in all respects so advantageous, that an army nowhere could be lodged with more con-

venience or security. It was a rough and craggy mountain, rising from the plain to a considerable height, whose top was more than a hundred stadia in circumference. The lands beneath the summit were rich in husbandry and pasture, refreshed by wholesome breezes from the sea, and not infested by any noxious beast. On every side stood precipices, not easy to be surmounted: and the space between them was so straight and narrow, that no great force was required to guard it. There was, besides, an eminence from the very top of the mountain, from whence, as from a watch-tower, every thing might be discerned, that was done in the plain below. The harbour that was near it was deep and spacious, and lay commodious for all vessels that were sailing towards Italy, from Drepanum or Lilybæum. There were three ways only of approaching this mountain; two on the side of the land, and the other towards the sea. In this post, Amilcar had the boldness to encamp*."

At different epochs Palermo has held the rank of a metropolis. As it was the capital of the Saracens, we may readily account for many interesting and valuable monuments of that nation,

* Polybius, book i. chap. v.

still existing. The palaces Zisa, Cuba, and Mare Dolce, were the habitations of the Saracen princes. The Zisa, together with a small mosque adjoining, on the battlements of which some Saracenic inscriptions appear, is in a perfect state of preservation. An ambassador from Morocco, who was here some time ago, was much struck with it, and said, the plan of the building was similar to those of such edifices in his own country. A large apartment, in the third story, he pronounced to be the Council Chamber. The summit of this edifice commands a striking view of the beautiful and fertile plain and garden of Palermo, surrounded by lofty and majestic mountains, broken into the most picturesque forms, together with the port, sea, &c. and the adjacent islands. The Cuba, now converted into a barrack for a regiment of cavalry, called Borgognini, is in a less perfect state of preservation than the Zisa, but the summit is encircled with a much longer inscription. In the garden of Don *** di Napoli, not far distant, is an antique fountain, in extremely good condition, which is apparently of the same date, and was probably an appurtenance of the Cuba. Mare Dolce is without any inscription, and more dilapidated than the other two; but not less curious. It encloses the remains of a bath, or stufa, with three arches, from whence issued

the spring which supplied the *Naumachia*. The form is distinguishable, and great part of the wall is extant.

The first entrance to Palermo, through the *Porta felice*, is very striking, as the whole extent of the city is caught at a single glance. The internal disposition of the place is at once admirable and magnificent. Two streets, each a mile long, cross it at right angles; and at the intersection is an octangular space, called *Piazza Vigliena*, of regular architecture. From hence, the view to the north is terminated by the *Porta felice* and the sea, and to the south, by the *Porta nuova*, the mountains, and castle above Monreale. The pavement of the streets is flat, and the houses are lofty. Those in the Cassaro, being nearly uniform in height, form an avenue, striking from its length, with footways on each side. The best building in this range is the Palazzo Geraci; and the most striking defect in the street is the want of breadth, in proportion to the height of the houses. Here we see a vast concourse of people, and the best shops; and here only have we reason to say that Sicily is not depopulated. The circumference of the city is not above four miles. Some handsome gateways, extensive suburbs, and a number of new buildings, indicate the increase of the inhabitants.

The largest squares are those of the Palazzo, the *Pian odella marina*, and the space, occupied by a handsome fountain, near the senate-house.

The outward aspect of the palace is by no means prepossessing. It is partly old, in the Saracenic taste, and partly modern; in short it is a piece of patchwork, without order, or architectural symmetry. Within, however, are several good apartments, particularly the long gallery. Here are two fine antique brazen rams, of the natural size, brought, according to tradition, from Syracuse; where, with two others, they were placed to indicate the direction of the wind, and one of the four made a bellowing noise, according to the quarter from which it blew.

I have seen no city, of which the environs are so convenient, and, at the same time, so delightful, as those of Palermo. The description given of it by Fazellus is at once brief and accurate. "Palermo, the capital, is situated in a fruitful plain, and on a coast, which the ancients called *pulchrum littus*. On one side it is washed by the *Mare Tyrrhenum;* on the three others it lies open to an extensive plain, bounded by rugged and lofty mountains, entirely bare of trees. The circuit of this spacious plain is about twenty-five miles; and, like an immense amphitheatre, fashioned by

the hand of nature, it affords the highest delight to those who look down on it from some of the neighbouring eminences."

From the fertility and cultivation of its soil, this plain deserves the name of *totus hortus*, and the beauty of the coast merits no less that of *pulchrum littus*. Were I to describe, or paint, the charms of this delightful situation, I would take my post on the platform of the Saracen castle, Zisa. Here, at one glance, the eye embraces the whole circuit, and the grandest natural amphitheatre I ever beheld. On one side, the city, which lies too low to be seen, except from an eminence, with its port and vessels; enclosed, on one hand, by the lofty mountain Pellegrino, where Sta. Rosalia has fixed her shrine; and, on the other, by Capo Zaffarano, the summit of which was crowned by the ancient city of Soluntum, like Palermo, inhabited by the Phœnicians; the beautiful intervening coast, leading to the Bagaria, behind which is the lofty mountain of St. Calogero, the more distant heights, near Cefalù, and some of the islands. Turning towards the north, the spectator may trace the eastern side of this capacious amphitheatre, and admire the rugged and picturesque forms of the adjacent mountains, with the convents of Sta. Maria di Gesu, La Grazia, and Badia, seated on their declivities; to-

gether with the city of Monreale, surmounted by its Norman castle. He may then wander in imagination to the rich and luxurious retreat of the Benedictine monks, at St. Martino, buried in the recesses of the mountains, behind the Castellazzo. After surveying the remainder of this noble amphitheatre, he may contemplate its cheerful, gay, and crowded *arena:* cheerful, from the fertility of the soil, and varied appearance of the cultivation; gay, from the innumerable and glowing tints of its natural productions; and crowded, from the thickly scattered villas at the Colli, and in the more immediate vicinity of the city.

The Benedictine convent at St. Martino, eight miles from Palermo, is a vast unfinished pile, surrounded by barren mountains, destitute of trees, and not enlivened by any gay object. It has a spacious library, and a museum, containing a few antiquities, such as inscriptions, vases, candelabra, and some good medals. A marble or alabaster vase, a candelabrum, and a small ivory tessera, with a Greek inscription, are the curiosities most worthy of attention. Here are some paintings, which the monks have gratuitously baptised by the names of great masters. An apartment has lately been fitted up with gaudy arabesque paintings, in a style little adapted to the simplicity of a convent. On the staircase and landing-place are

some fine specimens of the Sicilian marbles. To the hospitality of these fathers I was twice indebted for a polite and liberal reception.

The convent of Sta. Maria di Gesu, La Grazia, and Badia, are placed in very picturesque situations; but it would be endless to describe the pleasing scenes which I discovered during my various excursions in the neighbourhood of Palermo. The Bagaria, which I have already mentioned; the Colli in the vicinity of the city, and the plain leading to Monreale, are the spots most frequented during the season of the Villeggiatura, and the most crowded with the villas of the nobility. Many of these structures are magnificent; but they want that nicety of finish and unity, to which an English eye is accustomed, even in the country retreat of a London citizen. Large piles of building seem to have been erected, merely to strike the eye of a spectator, without any regard to the comfort of the inhabitants. Begun on extensive and costly plans, many are left unfinished for want of funds to complete the original design. All the superior classes, from the nobles to the monks, seem to err in this respect; and from the capital, the miscalculating spirit seems to have diffused itself through other parts of the kingdom. Of this, Catania, Noto, &c. furnish abundant proofs; the palaces and

churches, still in an unfinished state, are very numerous. To an English eye the mode of building appears slovenly and unstable; though from the lightness of the stone, and the vicinity of the quarries, the expense is comparatively small. The abundance of streams and springs in the neighbourhood of Palermo would furnish the means of forming the most delightful gardens; but for this species of decoration the inhabitants have no taste; the only ornaments of their extensive pleasure grounds are orange, lemon, and a few other kinds of fruit-trees. Many parts are happily situated for vegetation, as is sufficiently proved by the Flora; but the soil of the Bagaria is too shallow and rocky.

With regard to the manners and habits of the Sicilians, too much is sacrificed to external shew and splendour, and too little attention paid to domestic comfort and economy; indeed, the latter qualities are little known or cultivated in Sicily. The rich abandon their feuds and provincial cities, flock to the capital, and by following the general course of dissipation, plunge themselves in debt. Those who do not find an adequate demand for their expenditure at Palermo, resort to the still more luxurious capital of Naples. From this thoughtless system we see few opulent families, though the nobility are so numerous, that a

private cavaliere is a being almost unknown. The richest families, indeed, boast of an immense revenue; but the principal part of it is often absorbed in the payment of interest for debt. A small income, however, if well managed, and not in the hands of a gambler, a race too numerous in this island, would afford every necessary comfort; for the expense of living is reasonable. The number of horses and mules kept by many families is ridiculously great.

As the ladies are generally prolific, many of the nobility have large families. Where this is the case, the scanty pittance of a younger son consists of an allowance for clothes and *menus plaisirs*, and his *piatto*, or board and lodging, in the paternal house, or after the father's death, in the fraternal; for the right of primogeniture usually prevails. Most of the females, who are not fortunate enough to *incasarsi*, or marry, are doomed to be *incassate*, or immured within the walls of a convent. Female education is, however, here conducted on a much more liberal and enlarged plan than in the other Italian cities, and more according to the English mode. Young women are not doomed to spend their infancy and youth in a cloister, and to wait till a husband knocks at the door of the cell, to conduct them to the altar, without any previous acquaintance, or

regard to any consideration but a suitable rank, portion, and connection. On the contrary, they are introduced into company, under the auspices of their mothers. Many young ladies of condition are at present the ornament of the societies in which they move, among whom I may mention the lively and amiable Donna Giovannina, the Geraci, the daughters of Pantellaria, and many others. I wish I could speak as favourably of the education and manners of the young men; but if I may judge of the principles inculcated in early youth, by the fruit they produce at the age of maturity, I may safely conclude, that there is a great defect either in the seed or the soil. The only ambition, and the whole occupation, of a young Palermitan of rank, seem to consist in invoking the blind goddess at the faro table, and driving a phaeton. Between the hour when he retires to repose, and day-break, a scanty space intervenes. He rises a little time before dinner, strolls to the Café, returns to his *piatto*, and in the evening appears at the usual rendezvous, the Marina. Such are the habits of the distinguished youth at Palermo. When I blamed this system, I was asked, *Che altro c'è da fare la mattina, che di stare al letto?* "What else can be done in the morning than to lie in bed?" If ease and indolence constitute happiness, this may be happiness; but to make it so, requires both habit and example.

The Sicilians, both male and female, have natural and lively parts; and nothing but proper cultivation is wanting to render them equal, if not superior, to the more northern nations. Their amusements are on a very limited scale. Play is the deity, whose shrine is crowded with votaries, both day and night. In winter, the principal assembly is held at a casino, in the *Piano di Bologna*, which is maintained on an excellent plan, by an annual subscription. Here the principal nobility meet nightly on the most easy and friendly terms. During the summer months the assembly is removed to a temporary building at the Mariña; for at that season, the places of rendezvous, amusement, and general activity, are at the Marina. The universal rage for play has totally ruined the theatre. Palermo, however, from its beautiful situation, delightful rides and walks, pure and enlivening air; from the hospitality and politeness of its inhabitants, and the ease and freedom of their mode of life, may be esteemed one of the most pleasant Italian cities for the residence of a stranger. Here he readily becomes acquainted with the principal nobility, and partakes of every fête which they give.

Away, then, with the idle tales which have been delivered in print, of Sicily and the Sicilians! The island has been depicted as a spot abounding

with dangers, where the traveller might expect to encounter a band of robbers in every wood, and every grove; its inhabitants as little better than barbarians. Let a stranger reside a short time at Palermo, and familiarise himself with the natives, and he will be convinced that authors have condemned them without a trial. For all former fables, he will say, with me, " Credat Judæus Apella, non ego."

I have now only to add a few words on the public buildings and churches. The ancient cathedral presents a rich exterior of Norman architecture; *sed fronti nulla fides;* for the interior exhibits a bad specimen of the Sicilian taste. Its ruinous condition occasioned so disadvantageous a transformation. Originally the inside corresponded with the exterior, was adorned with numerous granite and marble columns, and four porphyry tombs of Norman kings. At present it is unfinished: the columns, tombs, &c. all remain, but altered in a manner, which leaves no trace of the primitive style. The modern cathedral was formerly the church of the Jesuits. It is rich in marble; but the architecture is defective. The church of St. Giuseppe is a fine building, and remarkable for the size of its columns. They are of Sicilian marble, each in a single block; and eight, which are larger than the rest, are really

magnificent. The church of St. Salvadore is in the shape of a rotundo, pleasing, but overloaded with party-coloured marbles.

The church of St. Dominico contains a fine vase, and an ancient basso relievo of boys, over the baptismal font. According to a measurement made, and recorded on a marble tablet in the church, it is capable of containing eleven thousand nine hundred and eighteen persons. The columns are fine; but not equal in magnitude to those of St. Giuseppe.

In regard to plan, the Olivella is, perhaps, superior to most of the churches in Palermo. It is now modelling, in a very elegant style of modern Arabesque painting and gilding: better adapted, perhaps, to a palace than to a church. The lightness and beauty of the design, however, relieves the eye, after surveying the other churches, so loaded with marbles and basso relievos. The adjoining Oratorio exhibits a pleasing style, and good design. Sta. Chiara, Sta. Anna, and many others, are rich in marbles. Sta. Zita, the chapel of the Rosario, is adorned with many marble basso relievos, in compartments. The Oratorio is crowded with basso relievos, in plaster; and contains a large picture, by Carlo Maratti.

The old churches of the Saracen and Norman

æra are the church of Monreale, that in the palace, the Martorana, St. Cataldo, St. Giovanni Ermete.

The only good pictures I have seen, are the Angelo Custode, in the church of St. Francesco, by Domenichino, the upper part cut off, and, according to report, stolen; a small piece, by Albert Durer, in the Casa Malvagna; and another, by the same hand, in the Casa Larderia.

SICILIAN ITINERARY.

PART THE SECOND.

Names of Places.	Miles.	Places of Lodging.
Palermo to Termine	24	At the inn, good.
Caltavoturo	18	Don Antonio Cipolla, Segreto.
Alimena	18	Don Antonio Amico, Segreto.
Castrogiovanni	18	Convent of the Padri Conventuali.
Piazza	18	Ditto.
Caltagirone	14	Ditto.
Vittoria	24	Don Santo Giudice, Segreto.
Scoglietti, Camerina, and Vittoria	18	
Comiso and Vittoria	8	

Names of Places.	Miles.	Places of Lodging.
Sta. Croce . .	10	Don Ippolito Rinzivillo, Segreto.
Malta	60	At Carletti's.
Gozo	18	
From the shore to the city . .	4	
To the rock where the fungus grows	4	
Back to the sea beach . . .	8	
Capo Passaro	100	Casino del Principe Villadorata.
Noto	18	Convent of the Padri Conventuali.
Noto Vecchio, and back . . .	14	
Palazzolo . .	18	Convent of the Padri Osservanti.
Vizzini . . .	12	Convent of the Padri Agostiniani.
The Lake of Lentini	18	
Catania . . .	18	Locanda del Leofante.
Aci	12	A tolerable inn.
Alle Giarre . .	10	A tolerable inn.
Alla Castagna di cento Cavalli, and back . .	10	

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